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The Pittsburgh Commercial.

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The Daily and Weekly Commercial.

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FIRST EDITION.

HARRISBURG.

PENNSYLVANIA LEGISLATURE

How the Louisiana Resolutions Were Not Repealed.

Attention of Democratic Members to Public Business.

THREE WEEKS WASTED BY THE HOUSE.

Significant Contrast in the Senate, Which Will be Ready to Adjourn by the Middle of March.

Special Correspondence of Pittsburgh Commercial.

HARRISBURG, January 22, 1875.

Mr. Stewart, of Lawrence, startled the Democratic members this morning, and raised them out of a year's growth. The Democratic side being very thin, Mr. Stew- thought it a good opportunity to get ough a resolution repealing the Louisi- resolutions passed on the 12th, and ac- dingly offered one to that effect. There s an instant buzz among the Democratic mbers, and runners were started out to hotels to drive in the absent members. tleantime, Mr. Plummer, of Crawford, appears to have imbibed a great deal as from the oil wells, and who labors der the delusion that he, instead of the odhull, is inspired by the spirit of Deshenes, jumped to his feet and threatd to occupy the time of the House until hour of adjournment. Upon being reded, however, that a call for the previ question would close his oratorical d-pipe, he subsided, and was saved m making an exhibition of himself. A gestion from his party friends to Plum- r that it would be better if he would not p his mouth constantly open, would be nfini e service to him.

The Speaker was naturally worried by failure of his party friends to attend to ir legislative duties, and in order to re off a vote on the main question ll the whips could drive in enough gards to outvote the Republicans, he rested a doubt whether the resolution s in order. The time had gone by for sidering the Louisiana resolutions, he did not think they could be reded except after reconsideration. y of this point of order isapparent when considered that rescinding a resolution e passed is precisely the same as repeala law which has been passed. No one bts the power of this Legislature to re- any law it may happen to pass, with- first reconsidering the vote on its final sage and if a law once passed and be- d reconsideration may be afterwards ealed, a resolution once passed and be- d reconsideration may also be re- ded.

ut the point was good enough in this e for delay, and answered that purpose. securing the streets and hotels, a dozen ose of wandering Democratic members e driven in, and Mr. Stewart's resolu- was ruled out by a vote of 64 to 70.

he result will teach the Democratic mbers that, as they have the House, y must attend its sessions and perform duties of legislation. If they do not, e of these fine mornings they will ing to find the House taken out of ir hands. They must either run the use or give it up. They have wasted three ks in doing nothing, and now that the e for work has come, they shirk it, and fer loafing around the hotels to attend- to their duties. The next time the ublicans find themselves temporarily he majority, over there, they will know w to make use of their advantage.

he only bill so far passed by both ses, this session, was got through the ate yesterday finally. This was Mr. Neer's bill relative to process issued out of District Courts and not returned at the e those courts were abolished, and it been got through only by persistent ching and pressing on the part of Mes- Newmyer and Christy. If left to itself, House would not have reached it for months to come. The Philadelphians e been trying hard to press through ir bill about Magistrate's Courts, in e for the February election, but have only through first reading, so far. eyond action on these two bills the House done nothing, and seems either unwil- to do or incapable of doing anything. nated an hour to-day in a fruitless tak- appointing a special committee on ifical Practice, and finally refused to ap- t one; and as every practicable propo- n that is offered is met with a tiresome ate, which ends in nothing, the Members who willing to work are naturally discour- d.

he Senate, on the other hand, is fully with its work. Its file shows thirty- e bills reported, of which thirteen have sed finally, and the rest are in progress. Senate calendar is cleaned up every , and that body seldom spends more n an hour at a session. The contrast be- en the two is marked and decisive.

ext week the Senate will probably a resolution to adjourn finally on the t of March. If the time is prolonged ond that, the Democratic House must e the responsibility. It is now the sole ruction to work, and the Republicans he Senate give fair notice to their op- nents that the entire responsibility of a session and of delaying public work st rest with those who cause the delay.

House is Democratic, and if it fritters y the time, and trifles with its duty, neglects the public interests, thereby onging the session, and scandalizing State by an exhibition of legislative otence, the Democratic party must r the brunt of the blame.

he Republican majority in the Senate do its best to make the session a short . There is but little legislation asked and there is nothing of special imance pressing. The appropriation bills the most important, and as they must inate in the House, the Senate cannot ed liable for the delay caused by hold- them back. Let the Democratic lers, therefore, take timely notice that r will be held accountable for the short- lings of the House. The two houses not now convene again until the 27th: when the people come to take into unt that nearly an entire month has n frittered away, through the ineffici- y of the Democratic House, they will fail to hold the party to a strict accoun- lity for its failure to meet its responsi- ties promptly.

he long adjournment over to Wednes- is accounted for the by the fact that primary meetings of both parties take e in Philadelphia on Monday and sday, and that the nominating conven- s meet on Wednesday and Thursday. only officers to be chosen are nelimen, election officers, and twenty- Aldermen, under the new con- utional provision on that subject. main interest is in the latter. h party will nominate fourteen, and minority party will elect eight. Hence scramble over the nominations, there g a certainty in the election for eight ch party, and a contest only for the aining six. SPECIAL.

HAVANA.

Arrival of the Mexican Sisters of Charity —Alfonso Proclaimed King.

HAVANA, January 23.—One hundred and y-eight sisters of charity, expelled from ico, arrived here *en route* to France. Alfonso was officially proclaimed King pain to-day by Captain General Concha.

THE WEATHER.

WAR DEPARTMENT,
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF SIGNAL OFFICER,
WASHINGTON, D. C., January 25, 1 A. M., 1875.

PROBABILITIES.

During Monday in the Ohio Valley high, owed by falling barometer, generally r temperature than on Sunday, and ror partly cloudy weather, with winds ing to south or east. In the Middle es and Lower Lake region rising ba- eter, falling temperature, brisk north west winds, and clear or clearing ther, which conditions will probably nd eastward over New England. The o river at Pittsburgh, Cincinnati and isville, and the Cumberland at Nash- ille continue falling. Signals ais continue at Woods' Hole, Boston, tchers Island, Portland and Eastport.

Midnight Bulletin.

January 24, 1875—1048 P. M.

STATIONS.	Bar.	Ther	Wind	Weather.
.....	30.35	34	W.	Clear.
innati.....	30.39	31	W.	Clear.
rport.....	30.35	19	W.	Clear.
napolis.....	30.37	23	W.	Clear.
ask	30.35	22	S.	Clear.
esworth.....	30.28	25	.....	Clear.
isville.....	30.50	32	.....	Clear.
phis.....	30.35	42	.....	Clear.
isville.....	30.34	37	N. W.	Clear.
ha.....	30.35	9	.....	Clear.
burgh.....	30.62	24	S. W.	Fair.
eport.....	30.61	42	.....	Clear.
ville.....	30.56	35	N. W.	Clear.
ton.....	30.57	10	W.	Clear.
dusky.....	30.57	30	S.	Clear.
ston	30.59	28	N. E.	Clear.
Gibson.....	30.29	29	.....	Fair.
rosse	30.56	4	S. W.	Clear.
Platte	29.63	22	.....	Clear.

FOREIGN NEWS.

BY THE ATLANTIC CABLE

Austria.

MONTENEGRO ON THE ALERT.

VIENNA, January 23.—The Montenegrin Government has ordered its subjects abroad to return home. Twelve thousand troops have been ordered to the frontier.

THE MONTENEGRIN DIFFICULTY SETTLED.

VIENNA, January 24.—The Montenegrin difficulty has been compromised. The citizens of Montenegro are to be tried at Cettigne. The evidence of the Turkish witnesses in the case will be taken at the frontier town of Spush.

Germany.

COMPLIMENTS OF KING ALFONSO.

BERLIN, January 23.—A courier has arrived in this city bearing an autograph letter from King Alfonso to Emperor William. He has similar letters for the Emperor of Austria and the King of Italy.

Spain.

TWO PROCLAMATIONS FROM THE KING.

MADRID, January 23.—King Alfonso issued two proclamations to-day, one addressed to the inhabitants of the Basque provinces and Navarre. In this the King says he longs for peace, but will fight for his rights; that he is the representative of the dynasty which their fathers swore to obey, that he is a Catholic, and will see that full justice is again done to the Church; that if they will lay down their arms they will see prosperity revive and will regain the freedom they enjoyed under Queen Isabella. He offers full amnesty to all who comply with his terms. The other proclamation is addressed to the army, from whom the King demands abnegation and energy.

THE PROCLAMATIONS—THE KING REVIEWS THE TROOPS.

MADRID, January 24.—King Alfonso, in his two proclamations of yesterday, promises to respect the Fueros of the Basque provinces, and exhorts those officers whom the revolution induced to join Don Carlos, to return to their comrades in the Army of Spain. The King to-day reviewed forty thousand troops at Peralta, and was warmly cheered.

RUMORED COMPROMISE WITH DON CARLOS.

MADRID, January 24.—Various rumors are in circulation here of a compromise with Don Carlos.

Italy.

MEETING OF PARLIAMENT TO-DAY—RECEPTION OF GARIBALDI AT CIVITA VECCHIA AND ROME.

ROME, January 24.—The Italian Parliament will assemble on Monday. General Garibaldi, one of the Deputies, landed at Civita Vecchia yesterday evening. He was received by the people and conducted through the town by a torchlight procession. The General arrived to-day in Rome. He was met at the railway station by the Mayor and members of the municipality and cordially welcomed to the city. Several workmen's societies formed a procession with bands and escorted the old hero to his hotel. Immense crowds lined the streets and cheered with the wildest enthusiasm as the procession passed. No disorder of any kind marred the demonstration.

ROME, January 24.—The most extravagant demonstration of popular feeling was made at the Garibaldi reception to-day. The people took the horses from his carriage and drew him to the hotel. The crowd around the hotel was so great that Garibaldi was obliged to leave *incognito* and proceed to a private residence. He is expected to be present Monday night in the Chamber of Deputies, and will probably speak during the debate on the arrests of Republicans.

England.

DEATH OF CANNON KINGSLEY.

LONDON, January 25.—Rev. Charles Kingsley died yesterday, aged fifty-six years.

THE NEXT LIBERAL LEADER.

LONDON, January 25.—A meeting of Liberal members of Parliament to select a leader for the party is appointed for February 3d.

ALFONSO TO VICTORIA.

LONDON, January 25.—An autograph letter from Alfonso was delivered to Queen Victoria on Saturday, formally advising her of his accession to the throne, and of his intention to rule over Spain on constitutional principles.

France.

SEIZURE OF ARMS FOR THE CARLISTS.

PARIS, January 24.—The French authorities on the Spanish frontier have seized a convoy of arms for the Carlists.

NO CHANCES FOR A NEW ADMINISTRATION.

LONDON, January 25.—The *Times'* correspondent at Paris telegraphs that it is considered that the Duke de Broglie, by the part he took in Friday's debate in the Assembly, has dissipated all chance of his ideas taking a new administration, as a vote on the motion to close the debate, which was made and supported by his partisans, proved that there was a majority of nearly one hundred against him.

ALMOST A DUEL.

The Duke Decazes recently sent seconds to M. Dutemple to demand an explanation of certain letters charging him with violating his engagements. It is now announced that the affair has been amicably settled.

Marine News.

QUEENSTOWN, January 24.—Arrived—City of Antwerp, from New York.

HAVRE, January 24.—Arrived—St. Laurent, from New York.

European Markets.

LONDON, January 25, 5 P. M.—Consols for money and account, 93⅞@93⅝. United States bonds—5-20's, 1865, 107⅝; do, 1867, 107⅝; 10-40s, 104½; new 5's, 102½. New York Central 93; Erie 20¾; preferred 46.

PARIS, January 23.—Rentes 62 francs 5 centimes.

LIVERPOOL, January 23.—Cotton easier; middling upland 7⅝d; Orleans 7⅝@8d; sales of 12,000 bales, including 2,000 for speculation and export and 7,400 American. Bacon—long clear middles 46s. Shoulders—new dull at 33s. Sugar cured hams 52s.

ANTWERP, January 23.—Petroleum 25½ francs.

PHILADELPHIA.

Visit of the Congressional Centennial Committee.

PHILADELPHIA, January 23.—The Congressional Centennial Committee visited the Centennial rooms to-day, where they were addressed by Governor Bigler, General Hawley and others. They subsequently visited the art gallery at the Centennial grounds, and to-night attended a ninth annual dinner, where President Grant and the Cabinet were present.

FIRE RECORD.

Plow and Wagon Factory Destroyed at Pekin, Illinois—Loss $80,000—One Hundred and Twenty-five Men Thrown Out of Work.

PEORIA, ILLS., January 23.—Early this morning a fire broke out in the extensive cultivator and wagon factory of T. & H. Smith & Co., in Pekin, Illinois, and, spreading rapidly, the building and contents, consisting, in addition to valuable machinery, of over 1,500 finished plows and a quantity of unmanufactured stock, were destroyed. The building was owned by L. Lupen and valued at $20,000. There was no insurance. The loss on machinery is $20,000, and the insurance $2,000 in each of the following companies: Lycoming, of Pennsylvania; Farmers, of York, Pa.; Peoples, of Memphis; Allemania, of Pittsburgh; and Shero, of Philadelphia. The stock was valued at $40,000, insured for $13,000, as follows: Citizens, of Missouri, $2,500; German, of Rochester, $1,500; Globe, of Chicago, $2,500; Planters, Memphis, $2,500; Commercial, of St. Louis, $3,000; Michigan State, of Adrian, $2,000. One hundred and twenty-five men are thrown out of employment.

Catholic Church Destroyed at Hartford.

HARTFORD, CONN., January 24.—St. Patrick's church was burned early this morning. The building was valued at $150,000, and insured for $75,000. The walls are standing, but will probably have to be taken down. The building will be replaced at once.

Fort Leavenworth—$30,000.

ST. LOUIS, January 24.—Twelve of the large stables at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, were burned yesterday. The loss is about $30,000. Seven hundred horses were in the buildings, but they were all rescued without harm. The fire was the work of an incendiary.

Owego, Wis.—$30,000.

MILWAUKEE, January 24.—Fowler's Mill, at Owego, Brown county, was destroyed by fire yesterday morning. Loss, $30,000; insurance, $7,000.

CASUALTIES.

Accident on Michigan Lake Shore Railroad—Engineer Killed and Fireman Injured.

DETROIT, January 23.—The engine and baggage car of the night express on the Michigan Lake Shore Railroad, were thrown from the track by a broken rail near Grand Rapids, this morning. Engineer Jno. W. Anderson was killed. Fireman Walton Cummings was injured internally, and it is doubtful if he will recover.

TO HAVE elegant light Biscuits, Rolls, Buckwheat Cakes, Fruit Dumplings, &c., you should use Dooley's Yeast Powder. Ask your grocer for it. It is a pure Baking Powder. d*

SECOND EDITION.

WASHINGTON.

Republican Senators and Representatives in Caucus.

Southern Affairs Discussed Without Definite Results.

Mr. Foster Defends His Sub-Committee Against a Republican Attack.

CONGRESSMAN STOWELL TO BE ACQUITTED.

Schumaker Held in Pity and Contempt by His Brother Congressmen.

The President's Financial Recommendations to be Disregarded.

Special Dispatch to the Commercial.

WASHINGTON, D. C., January 24, 1875.

House Republican Caucus.

The caucus of the Republican members of the House of Representatives, last night, was not so largely attended as that of Friday night. Mr. White, of Alabama, again offered his bill to amend the Enforcement Act in such a way as to guarantee greater protection to the people of the South. After much discussion Mr. White was authorized to report it to the House, but it was agreed that the action of the caucus was not to be considered binding upon the individual members, but that they were to be free to vote as they pleased. The same course was taken in reference to a resolution which Mr. Butler, of Massachusetts, was authorized to introduce, to so amend the rules as to prevent more than one dilatory motion on any question. It is not believed that this can be adopted, although General Butler strongly urged that unless the rules were so amended there was no prospect of accomplishing anything at this session. General Butler appealed to the members to assist him to get the Civil Rights bill out of the way. Mr. Hurlburt, of Illinois, made a speech, in the course of which he intimated that the Sub-Committee sent to New Orleans had not done its duty. This Mr. Foster, of Ohio, replied, defending the action of the committee. It is alleged that the Republican majority in the House will not ratify the action of the caucus.

Pacific Mail Investigation.

The Ways and Means Committee desire, if possible, to close the Pacific Mail investigation this week, and to that end they will commence their sessions daily at ten o'clock. Representative Schumaker is to be recalled after Mr. Irwin's testimony is all in. This Representative has, by his testimony, placed himself in a most unfortunate position. The members of the committee and his colleagues look upon him with mingled feelings of pity and contempt. He seems to have deliberately started out on the line of "non-recollection," and to be determined to pursue that course to the end. There are those who believe that the weight of the exposure has had the effect of disordering his intellect; others are not willing to place so charitable construction upon his testimony, but say that he has deliberately lied; others yet have the impression that he expended some of the money he received in Congressmen, and that he has determined to sacrifice himself rather than expose his friends; but those who know him best say he is not capable of such an act of self sacrifice. When again on the stand, the committee will put him through a searching cross-examination, and endeavor to elicit all the facts.

No More Financial Legislation.

The propositions contained in the recent message of the President to Congress, asking additional legislation with a view to the practically immediate resumption of specie payments, has been thoroughly, though informally, considered by the Senate Committee on Finance, who have concluded that it would not be advisable to undertake a measure so important at this juncture. This committee having originated the bill which passed both Houses and is now a law, are fully cognizant of the powers granted by its provisions. The idea of the committee, when the bill was prepared, was that it gave ample powers to accomplish the end in view. The President, however, objects to so much, but the committee have practically decided that this is not necessary. It is therefore safe to conclude that no further action on the finances will be taken this session. The committee, however, approves of the proposition to increase the taxes sufficiently to cover the losses sustained by the revenues through the diminution of the customs and necessary to the carrying on of the Government.

WASHINGTON, D. C., January 23, 1875.

REPUBLICAN SENATORIAL CAUCUS ON SOUTHERN AFFAIRS—NOTHING DEFINITE AGREED UPON.

The Republican Senators held a caucus to-day, which continued for several hours. The chief topic of discussion was the condition of the South, but there being conflicting views, no result was reached. The caucus, instead of giving expression to its views on the Louisiana question, agreed to await the action of the Committee on Elections on Pinchback's credentials, and will, therefore, be governed in the Senate by the committee's report. Some of the Senators saw no escape from the present difficulties in that State, except by remanding it to a territorial condition. By this means they could avoid the complications growing out of the official recognition of the Kellogg government and open a way by which order may eventually be restored. Others thought a stronger hand ought to be stretched toward the several Southern States, otherwise there might be anarchy. There were opinions at variance from those expressed by the more conservative. All seemed to comprehend the difficulties of the situation, but there was no distinctive plan formally presented as a measure of relief.

HOUSE REPUBLICAN CAUCUS—IMPORTANT ACTION TAKEN.

There was a large attendance at the House Republican caucus to-night, and a general discussion as to what was best to be done in view of the present condition of the South, but none of the measures reported at the previous caucus were acted upon. Finally a resolution was adopted placing the power of passing all public acts with the majority of the House. A resolution for this purpose will probably be introduced in the House on Monday, and when adopted will have the effect of evading the two-thirds rule as to public acts, including the Civil Rights bill, the more energetic enforcement of the protective laws in the South and authorizing the President to suspend the writ of *habeas corpus* in certain cases, together with other measures which have been the subject of consideration by the Caucus Committee. The proceedings are represented to have been harmonious and the result entirely satisfactory.

WASHINGTON, D. C., January 24, 1875.

ADVERSE REPORTS ON SUBSIDIES TO RAILROADS.

The Senate Committee on Railroads yesterday decided to report adversely on the Northern Pacific Railroad bill and all others referred to them proposing Government aid or subsidy for railroads, except Scott's Texas Pacific Railroad bill, which was not acted upon but laid over until Monday.

LOUISIANA LEGISLATION IN THE SENATE.

It is said by one of the most prominent Republican Senators, that during the present week a joint resolution will be introduced recognizing the Kellogg government, irrespective of Pinchback's admission as Senator from Louisiana, and that a military government for Louisiana or any other Southern State, as some have privately suggested, is out of the question. General Sheridan will remain at New Orleans without limit as to time.

GOVERNMENT LOAN TO THE CHEROKEES.

The House Committee on Indian Affairs have before them an act of the Cherokee Legislature authorizing the Cherokee delegation to negotiate with the Government a loan of $500,000, to be refunded from the proceeds of the Cherokee lands west of the Arkansas river, and South of Kansas. It is represented that this loan is necessary to keep the Cherokee people from suffering the present winter, in consequence of the destruction of their crops by chinch bugs and grasshoppers.

STOWELL TO BE ACQUITTED.

There seems to be no doubt that the House Committee on Naval Affairs will make an unanimous report acquitting Representative Stowell, of Virginia, in the charge that he sold a naval cadetship.

TAX ON TEA AND COFFEE.

The Committee on Ways and Means will not consider the taxing of tea and coffee, until they have received the bill in course of preparation by Secretary Bristow.

THE LITTLE TARIFF BILL

will not be sent to the President for approval until Monday. There is no doubt that he will sign it.

DELEGATE CANNON.

Five of the eleven members of the Committee on Elections are opposed to the resolution of the majority to exclude Delegate Cannon from his seat.

CRIMINAL RECORD.

Murder in the Maxwell House, Nashville.

NASHVILLE, January 23.—Joseph Delhi, a watchman at the Maxwell House, was fatally shot at two o'clock this morning, while in the performance of his duties, by Raymond Thomas, formerly a fireman in the Maxwell House engine room. Thomas was drunk at the time of the shooting. Thomas made his escape from the building, but was captured a few minutes after and placed in jail.

Horrible Baby-farming in Massachusetts.

BOSTON, January 23.—Two women who keep a baby farming establishment at Holliston, have been arrested on a charge of poisoning five infants within eight weeks.

A Murderer Released from Jail.

NASHVILLE, January 23.—On the 20th inst., at two o'clock A. M., twenty disguised and well armed men entered the town of Sparta, went to the jail, took the jailor and held him by force, obtained the keys from his person and took from the jail a man named James Rogers, confined for the murder of John Vincent on the 25th of December. The other five men in the jail were locked up by the masked men, and the keys left with the jailor. Nothing has since been heard of the prisoner, and it is supposed they were his friends.

Murder in Chicago.

CHICAGO, January 23.—A shocking murder was committed to-night on West Madison street, near Canal, Christopher Malone stabbing James Keagan and inflicting a wound which proved fatal in a few minutes. It seems that, some time since, the murdered man had his pocket-book stolen and a friend of Malone's was, among others, arrested on suspicion of being the thief. This evening Malone and Keagan met at a saloon on Madison street, near Canal, and got into a quarrel over the matter. Finally, Keagan struck Malone with a mason's trowel which he had in his hand, when the latter drew his pocket-knife and with one blow cut a fearful gash in his assailant's neck. He then fled, and the wounded man was taken to a drug store in the vicinity; but all efforts to stop the flow of blood were unavailing, and he died in a few minutes. Later in the evening the murderer was arrested by the police and confined in the station-house. Malone's father resides in King street, New York.

Suicide on a Railroad Track.

CINCINNATI, January 24.—James Myers committed suicide, early this morning, by throwing himself under the ladies' car of a train on the Cincinnati, Richmond and Chicago Railroad, as the cars are filled on leaving Collinsville station. Two wheels passed over the body, mangling it in a horrible manner and causing instant death. The man was over 70 years of age. Only $9 on his person.

Supposed Murder in Cincinnati.

CINCINNATI, January 24.—The body of a man was found on the railroad track near Cumminsville, on Saturday morning, horribly mutilated, having evidently been run over by a train. The supposition was that it was the body of a tramp, but the Coroners investigation brought out the fact that it was the body of Herman Grippe, aged thirty-five years, a German, who has started for Mount Pleasant with one Louis Schwenker, Friday last. They got no further than Cumminsville, where they drank considerably, and it is supposed that Grippe was left on the railroad track by Schwenker to hide his crime. Schwenker was arrested to-night, with blood on his clothes, and has given various accounts of his whereabouts since Friday evening. The Coroner has not yet concluded the inquest.

NEW YORK.

NEW YORK, January 23, 1875.

THE ASTOR HOUSE

was closed for alterations and repairs to-day.

THE EAST RIVER

was bridged with ice to-day, and hundreds of persons crossed and recrossed between this city and Brooklyn. At a change of tide the ice became detached from the piers and moved rapidly with the current. A number of people were on the ice at the time, but all were rescued by tug boats.

DEMOCRATIC CAUCUS ON CONVENTION.

At the annual meeting of the Democratic General Committee, to-night, Abram S. Hewitt was elected Chairman, with a full board of officers. Resolutions reaffirming Democratic principles were adopted.

HENRY NICOLL IN DEFAULT.

Henry Nicoll, a prominent lawyer, is unable to account for a large sum out of several estates which have been placed in his hands as trustee or business manager. The fact of the deficiency was only developed on Wednesday. Three estates are involved—those of Isaac Townsend, deceased; Henry M. Bradhurst, now in Europe; and the estate of Hickson W. Field. The total defalcation will reach about two hundred thousand dollars. Nicoll's troubles extended back two years, and were mainly traceable to the Eagle slate quarry, Vermont, in which he has sunk his own money, and that of others.

Mr. Nicoll owns a controlling interest in the Eagle quarry, and this property alone is considered ample security for his creditors. The Eagle Quarry Company matter has been explained, and time will show no intentional wrong in Mr. Nicoll's business transactions.

NEW YORK, January 24, 1875.

ONE OF THE SCANDAL JURORS.

It is rumored in Brooklyn that a juror in the Tilton-Beecher case was drinking with one of the counsel Friday night.

SCOTT'S TEXAS PACIFIC BILL.

The *Times'* Washington special says that from what is known of the views of the Senate Committee on Railroads, it is considered impossible that Scott's Texas Pacific Railroad bill can be reported favorably.

POLITICAL.

Tennessee.

EXCITING BALLOTING FOR SENATOR.

NASHVILLE, January 23.—The two houses met in convention at noon. The ballot was not materially changed up to the 34th, on which Gov. Brown received a complimentary vote of 32 and was withdrawn. The excitement is intense. On the 35th ballot Johnson had 32, Stephens 21, Brown 1, Bates 24, Ewing 5, Quaries 10, scattering 3. On the 42d ballot Johnson had 34, Stephens 23, Bates 31, Ewing 3, James 1. On the 43d ballot Johnson had 39, Stephens 23, Bates 32, scattering 3. Stephens was withdrawn after the 43d ballot. On the 44th ballot Johnson had 42, Bates 45, Ewing 6, scattering 3—four members absent; necessary to a choice 49. On the 48th ballot Johnson had 43, Bates 48, Ewing 4, Brown 1. On the 50th ballot Johnson had 42, Bates 45, Stephens 1, Ewing 7, Henry 1. The Convention rose and adjourned until Monday noon. Mr. Quaries withdrew his name after the 41st ballot.

Arkansas.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE LEGISLATURE.

LITTLE ROCK, January 23.—The House to-day passed a bill exempting from taxation, for a period of seven years, capital employed in mines and manufactures. Several resolutions are now pending in both houses for an adjournment *sine die* during the next twenty or thirty days.

West Virginia.

CAUCUSING FOR A SENATOR.

CINCINNATI, January 23.—A Charlestown, W. Va., special to the *Enquirer* says the Democratic caucus failed to-night to nominate a candidate for United States Senator. The first ballot resulted as follows: J. N. Camden, Henry Walker 16, Samuel Price 11, John Brannon 8, Caperton 6, scattering 7. After the seventh and last ballot, with about the same result, the caucus adjourned till Monday night. It is thought Brannon will be elected as a compromise candidate. The Capitol removal bill will probably be reported by the Senate Judiciary Committee on Monday.

Illinois.

SUCCESSOR ELECTED TO THE LATE CONGRESSMAN RICE.

CHICAGO, January 23.—At a special election in the First Congressional district, B. G. Caulfield, Congressman-elect from that district to the Forty-fourth Congress, was elected to fill the vacancy in the present Congress, caused by the death of John B. Rice. There was a very light vote polled and no concentrated opposition to Caulfield.

Wisconsin.

THE THREATENED BOLT AGAINST CARPENTER.

MILWAUKEE, January 24.—Advices from Madison are to the effect that the threatened bolt of the opponents of Carpenter, the nominee of the Republican caucus, will not take place, as a sufficient number cannot be secured.

Minnesota.

NO ELECTION FOR SENATOR.

ST. PAUL, MINN., January 23.—The vote for United States Senator to-day remains unchanged—Ramsey, 58; Donnelly, 52; Davis, 24; scattering, 17. Both Houses adjourned until Tuesday.

LOUISIANA.

THE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEE AT WORK.

Communication from the Conservative Members of the Legislature.

A Rose-Colored Statement from Shreveport.

No Disorders or Crimes in that Peaceful Locality.

Assistant Secretary of State Killed in a Personal Encounter.

EVERYTHING LOVELY ABOUT SHREVEPORT.

SHREVEPORT, January 23.—We, the undersigned, brethren resident of Shreveport, Louisiana, have read with indescribable astonishment the statements made by General Merrill and others, representing this community in a condition of anarchy and its people lawless and defiant, stating that in this vicinity there are not less than 250 political criminals; that freedmen are systematically maltreated and cheated of their earnings, and that 2,000 have been driven from their homes in penury. We most solemnly assert that all such statements are baseless misrepresentations and absurdly false. There is no lawlessness here nor in this vicinity that has come to our knowledge. The only disorder that we have known was made by this military slanderer, just before the election, by sending his soldiers raiding over the country, arresting unresisting citizens for imaginary offenses, who have not been held for trial because there was no evidence of guilt. If ordinary crimes are not vigorously punished by our present judicial authority, it is through no fault of the intelligent and virtuous part of the community, who have had no voice in their selection. If any tendency have been ejected, it has been to a small extent and mostly, if not altogether, the vagabonds and vicious. If there be any destitution among the colored people, it is in no sense from want of remunerative employment. The relations of the two races are unusually friendly, arising doubtless from the fact that at the recent election many white men voted, with the taxpayers, the Conservative ticket. We think the good order here quite remarkable, when we reflect that 5,000 white citizens and representatives who were elected by six hundred majority, in as orderly an election as we ever witnessed, have been from the outset chained out of their success by the present ruling dynasty. We will only add that the statements referred to are so outrageously false and groundless that language fails to have originated in a crazy brain and poorly concealed malice.

(Signed)

S. B. STEERS,
Cotton buyer, New York.
E. L. DENNIS,
Cotton buyer, Rhode Island.
I. J. HOWARD,
Cotton buyer, Connecticut.
C. W. BURT,
Merchant, Iowa.
E. H. CROSBY,
Planter, New York.
D. SHAFER,
Planter, New York.
A. E. WRIGHT,
Real Estate, Boston.
FRANK LEWIS,
Boot and shoe dealer, Boston, Mass.

THE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEE.

NEW ORLEANS, January 23.—The Congressional Committee to-day confined their investigation to the action of the Returning Board. No new developments were made.

COMMUNICATION FROM CONSERVATIVE MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATURE TO THE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEE.

NEW ORLEANS, January 23.—The Conservative caucus adopted the following, which was read to the Congressional Committee and accepted by the Chairman, to be taken under consideration:

Resolved, by this House caucus, composed of the Conservative members returned by the Returning Board and those claiming to have been unjustly ejected but defrauded by the Board. That, desiring in the interest of our afflicted State to have a solution of our political troubles and relying on the integrity and fairness of the four gentlemen, members of the Congressional Committee, now in New Orleans, and in advance of the investigation on their part, we, as a body, ask them, if the task is not considered too onerous, to take the returns of 1874, together with all fair and relevant testimony, and upon such returns and evidence declare what members of the Legislature were fairly elected.

ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF STATE MURDERED.

NEW ORLEANS, January 24.—W. A. Weeks (colored), Assistant Secretary of State, was killed last night by George Paris, a colored tax collector, in an altercation reported to be about a woman.

VICKSBURG.

A Movement to Re-instate Crosby.

VICKSBURG, January 23.—A movement is on foot to make Crosby a bond, on condition that he get out of the way and put an acceptable deputy in office who will have full charge. Most citizens strongly condemn the movement to make a bond, believing Flanagan legally elected Sheriff and that he ought to be sustained in the courts, though ejected by United States bayonets.

The Marysville, Cal., Flood.

SAN FRANCISCO, January 23.—The flood at Marysville is receding. Great damage is found to be sustained, and much destruction exists. Supplies of money, clothing and provisions are being forwarded from neighboring towns and this city. John Williams and Thomas Pardee were drowned. There is a heavy loss of stock. The surrounding country, Sherman and Twitchell islands, and the delta of the Sacramento river were flooded. There was a heavy rain here last night, which continues to-day, with no prospect of clearing up. Further damage is feared from high water in the valleys.

NEWS SUMMARY.

BY TELEGRAPH.

The steamers City of New York, from Liverpool, and Colon, from Aspinwall, have arrived at New York.

A shock of earthquake was felt in Butte, Plumas and Sierra counties, California, yesterday morning about four o'clock.

Captain Thomas C. Harris, of the United States navy, died yesterday morning at the Philadelphia Naval Asylum, after a brief illness.

Heath, Anderson & Co., of Boston, show assets of $339,020, against $506,490 of liabilities. Their creditors will probably grant an extension.

Landenburger's hosiery mills at Frankfort, Philadelphia, are closed, the firm having failed. Over one thousand men are thus thrown out of employment.

The Kansas House of Representatives has passed resolutions strongly upholding the President and General Sheridan in their action in Louisiana affairs.

The *Ontario*, the official paper in the City of Mexico, denies the signing of any document recognizing the English debt, adding that such a contract never will be signed.

Conductor Mangled to Death.

About four o'clock yesterday afternoon Thomas Sturgeon, a conductor on the Pittsburgh, Washington and Baltimore Railroad, met his death in a horrible manner. He had charge of a gravel train, which he was endeavoring to switch off on a siding near Ross street, for which purpose he was running along the track in front of his train. Before he could get the switch his foot caught in a frog, causing him to fall, the train passing over his body, mangling it horribly, causing instant death. The deceased was a brother of John P. Sturgeon, a dispatcher on the Connellsville road. He leaves a wife and children. The body was taken to his late residence, No. 21 Ann street, Allegheny. The Coroner's jury found a verdict of accidental death.

The Lock-Up this Morning.

Business was dull at the Station House last night, only two cases occurring worthy of mention:

Ben. Wallace was arrested between two and three o'clock this morning, on Smithfield street, near Fifth avenue, as a suspicious character. He had in his possession a good overcoat, which he was trying to sell for fifty cents.

Charles McClure assaulted a woman about twelve o'clock last night, on Grant street, near Fourth avenue, with a butcher knife. Officer Fahey interfered and brought Charles to the lock-up.

METHODISM.

Dedication of Centenary M. E. Church—Sermons by Bishop Bowman and Rev. A. B. Leonard—Sunday School Meeting, Addresses and Fine Music.

Centenary M. E. Church, Rev. Louis Paine, pastor, located on the corner of Wylie avenue and Kirkpatrick streets, was dedicated yesterday with interesting services. Notwithstanding the day was stormy and walking was difficult, owing to the slippery condition of the sidewalks, which prevented hundreds from attending, the occasion was rendered joyous because of the remarkable success in securing contributions.

The church is eligibly located and in a neighborhood rapidly filling up, and ere long it will be densely populated, and the church become strong and vigorous. The members of the church membership was made up from those who worshipped in the old Minersville church and Seventh ward Mission, making an aggregate of about fifty persons. The first class was organized by Rev. J. Hollingshead, but the project of building a church was suggested

The Commercial.

MONDAY, JANUARY 25, 1875.

IT TRANSMIGRATION of souls is the solution of life, we have an idea that SCHUMAKER will eventually become a Lethean river snake.

A VERITABLE inspiration of Democracy is making itself felt among the Democratic Legislators of Tennessee. They are commencing to vote for JEFF. DAVIS for United States Senator.

THE receipts from customs for the week ending January 16, were $117,927 88 for Philadelphia, against $80,632 48 for Baltimore, and $52,734 96 for New Orleans. These statistics are better than figures of rhetoric.

ELSEWHERE we reproduce the remarks of United States Senator-elect WALLACE to his friends and neighbors at Clearfield, last Thursday night. It will be observed that he falls regularly into place in the Bourbon line.

THE New York *Tribune* got itself adopted as the official paper in the BEECHER trial, and then, instead of reporting the evidence fairly, doctored it by striking out what it did not want to publish. That is characteristic of the paper.

A KENTUCKY Democratic editor says he would be delighted to skin PHIL. SHERIDAN alive, just for the fun of the thing. The Southern Democrats, generally, regard killing a Republican as a mere joke. It affords them pleasure to play the assassin.

SCHUMAKER, the Democratic Congressman from Brooklyn, is a *Nichts Wisser*. When asked what he did with the $300,000 he got from the Pacific Mail Company, he answers, "Ich ist 'weiss nicht'"—"I do not know." A regular Know Nothing.

THE Harrisburg correspondent of the Tioga *Agitator* lends himself to the little meanness of representing Hon. JOHN ALLISON as from Beaver, for the sole purpose of having a fling at Beaver county. Mr. ALLISON has been, for many years, a resident of Mercer county.

THE next annual meeting of the American Iron and Steel Association will be held in Philadelphia, Feburuary 11. Iron and steel makers who desire to become members of the Association are invited to be present. It is expected that the proceedings will possess more than usual interest, as numerous subjects of great importance will be considered.

IN PENNSYLVANIA Mr. Buckalew, a Democrat of superior talents and large experience, was passed over to elect Mr. Wallace, an active party manager, not known outside of the State.—*New York Graphic.*

What has "outside of the State" got to do with it, anyhow? The selection of United States Senators is a State matter, exclusively, and we do not see how it in any way becomes the concern of any other State.

INDICATIONS of a considerable movement of capital into the national banking businesss in the near future, and the consequent increase of national bank currency, are observable. The Comptroller of the Currency is receiving a great many letters of inquiry in reference to the organization of such banks, all of these inquiries being made with regard to proposed new banks in various parts of the country.

"THE message of Governor Coke, of TEXAS, shows the State to be prosperous, the government economical and the people unburdened with heavy taxes."—*St. Louis Republican.*

Does it show the expulsion of Captain BANYHAM, the Republican member of the Legislature of the State, from his home, on account of his political convictions, and the peremptory refusal of the Governor to protect him, when appealed to?

TECHNICAL education in connection with our common school system, is the inspiration of our more advanced educators, in a great number of our States, just now. The general adoption of this plan, would, we believe, within a few years add hundreds of millions of dollars to the valuation of the country. And if we really wish to have skilled artisans in the higher industrial and mechanical arts, this, we take it, is how they must be obtained.

WE LEARN from the Philadelphia *Press* that the agreement proposed at the meeting of the pig iron manufacturers last month, providing that the furnace-owners should severally decrease the production at their respective works to a quantity not exceeding one-half the capacity, and to maintain one or decrease during the present year, has not been signed by one-half of the firms to which it was submitted. Hence it fails of ratification.

THE Cincinnati *Enquirer* says JESSE D. BRIGHT was expelled from the United States Senate "because he was a Democrat." As he was expelled for writing a letter to JEFF. DAVIS, recommending to him a man who had a patent for improved fire arms, and as the Democrats generally, at that time, sympathized with JEFF. DAVIS, we suppose the *Enquirer* is about right. None *but* a Democrat could be guilty of giving aid and comfort to the enemy in time of war.

THERE is an anticipation of an improved demand for pig iron in Eastern markets. The enlarged transactions which have taken place within the past ten or twelve days are partly the result of a speculative feeling, and partly responsive to an increased demand. It is thought that the bottom has been reached, and that prices can go no lower. From quotations in the *Iron Age* it appears that in the British market there is a fair amount of business under a steady demand.

THE Republicans of Scranton have nominated MILO J. WILSON as their candidate for Mayor, and the *Republican* of that city says:

If there is a man in the city of Scranton who would come nearer being unobjectionable than Mr. Wilson we do not know where to find him. We are, therefore, constrained to say that we believe the convention has met the wishes of the great masses of the people of this city, and nominated a gentleman who can and will command the support of all good men.

It seems to us that, if this be true, it should not need any constraint to say it.

THE question of "a close alliance"—whatever that may mean—between our own Government and that of Great Britain is mooted in the leading public prints of the latter country. The project is Utopian. There is no real identity of interest and opinion between the two countries. Mutual esteem, kind feeling, and good understanding will, we trust, always prevail between the two peoples; but the United States will not be likely to give up its ideas of commercial and manufacturing independence, or to sacrifice its growing industries to competition with the overabundant and underpaid labor of England, for any purpose—and this is undoubtedly the real object of the proposition. There is a free trade cat in the meal tub.

IT IS, we believe, generally known that the object of King KALAKAUA'S visit to this country is a practical one. If mere relaxation from the cares of state or mere amusement had been the motive of the tour, no doubt his Majesty would have chosen a different season. A few days ago Mr. HENRY PIERCE, United States Minister at Honolulu, held an interview with the Senate Committee on Foreign Relations, in which he urged the acceptance of a treaty of reciprocity proposed by the Hawaiian Government. In the judgment of Mr. PIERCE, the subject is one which calls for immediate action on the part of the United States, his reason being that the prompt conclusion of the proposed treaty is the only means of preventing the consummation of a scheme of which Mr. JULIUS VOGEL, Prime Minister of the Government of New Zealand, is the author. This scheme contemplates the union of all the Polynesian islands, except those already occupied by other European powers, under the protectorate of Great Britain. If the plan could be carried out, the vast colonial possessions thus organized under British control would be governed by a great commercial company much resembling the defunct East India Company. The enterprise is said to be favorably regarded in London by many merchants, and it seems not incredible that the British Government might be induced to charter such a company. That the Government of New Zealand is kindly disposed towards the project may safely be taken for granted, if one fact alleged by Mr. PIERCE is not a mere figment of the imagination. The statement is that as a first step towards the realization of Mr. VOGEL'S scheme the New Zealand powers have offered KALAKAUA a loan at five per cent. of between one and three millions of dollars, to be repaid at distant dates. Unless the American Government accepts the commercial terms offered by the representative of the Hawaiian Government, Mr. PIERCE fully expects the islands before long to fall into the colonial net of Great Britain, which, in consideration of their strategetical position in the North Pacific, would seem a misfortune to the United States. Tahiti, the Marquesas and Nouvelle Caledonie, already belonging to France, are the chief Polynesian islands not comprehended in the VOGEL scheme. The Hawaiian reciprocity treaty will most likely be soon laid before the Senate.

THE New York papers imagine that that city occupies the same relation to the United States that Paris does to France and London to Great Britain, and hence they undertake to dabble in the politics of all the States, discussing their public men as if they knew all about them, and dictating who shall be selected for office, as well as who shall be thrust into the background.

They are, however, as much mistaken in the fact on which they base their impudent intermeddling in the affairs of other States, as they are unfit to judge of anything beyond their immediate vision. Paris is France; but New York is *not* the American nation; and the editors of the New York papers invariably make a botch of it when they get beyond the limited range of their own local politics.

The late elections in one-third of the States for United States Senators afforded them an opportunity for meddling which they could not let pass. They accordingly discussed the situation in each, pointed out who should be chosen, and heaped piles of mud upon the heads of aspirants not acceptable to them. They insisted upon it that CHARLES FRANCIS ADAMS should be chosen in Massachusetts; that HAMLIN should be and would be beaten in Maine; that BUCKALEW should be elected in Pennsylvania; that SCHURZ should be returned in Missouri; that CARPENTER should be laid on the shelf in Wisconsin; and that ANDY JOHNSON should be left to mend old coats and pants in Greenville; and it is remarkable that their advice and direction in all these cases have been utterly ignored. The result proves that these papers have no influence in national politics, and are thoroughly ignorant of the real situation of affairs in the States whose politics they insolently undertake to control.

When the correspondent of the New York *Tribune* visited Harrisburg on the occasion of the recent Senatorial election, he expressed to several persons his astonishment at finding that Mr. BUCKALEW was without followers and practically a blank in our State politics. Studying only the *Tribune*, and looking at Pennsylvania affairs only from the *Tribune* standpoint, he had imbibed the idea that BUCKALEW was the great man of the State, and that, being indorsed by the *Tribune*, he must necessarily be master of the situation. When he got upon the ground he was disenchanted. He found BUCKALEW powerless and not a soul paying the slightest attention to the articles in the *Tribune*, on the Senatorial question. He was very naturally disgusted; but we doubt very much whether he learned any wisdom from the lesson.

HORACE GREELEY, at one period of his life, was well posted in the politics of the various States, and his knowledge led him to be very cautious in taking any part in what was going on in them. He has left no one fit to fill his place; and there is not, at this hour, one man in the city of New York who knows or understands anything about the politics of the various States beyond what is apparent on the surface. We know this to be so with regard to Pennsylvania, and we presume it to be so with the other States. The press and the public men of New York seem unable to comprehend the affairs of Pennsylvania; and yet, the less they comprehend them the more they want to have a voice in managing them.

All this, of course, grows out of the hallucination that New York is a Metropolis, and that it is the function of the Metropolitan press to overlook, guide and direct the government of the provinces. The complete failure of the New York papers to control or in any way affect the Senatorial elections, should teach their editors to attend to their own home affairs exclusively, and leave the other States to manage things to suit themselves; but it will not. The task of braying fools in mortars has never yet repaid the labor bestowed upon it, and the proverbial wisdom that SOLOMON, if hurled at once at the heads of the editors of certain New York sheets, would not suffice to convince them that *they* are the fools which their course demonstrates them to be.

IT WOULD be unjust to doubt that the best people in the country, that is, the people whose sympathies are definitely on the side of virtue and honor, would be gratified by the establishment of HENRY WARD BEECHER'S innocence. We do not mean his mere acquittal by the verdict of a jury, but an acquittal so manifestly justified by the evidence adduced as to command general approval. There can be no doubt that the hope, whether strong or faint, of such a result is the ground of whatever interest is taken in the trial by a considerable portion of those who read its details. Those readers who neglected no part of the statements on either side published some months ago, are following the windings of the process now going on, in the hope of receiving some fresh light, in the hope that they may be enabled honestly to believe once more in the integrity of the great preacher. Watching the trial with such feelings they are naturally pained by any apparent failure on his part to apprehend or appreciate the real attitude of the earnest public towards the case. Members of this class care not at all for a merely technical triumph. Hence they are pained or disgusted by any indications on the part of Mr. BEECHER that he desires or would be satisfied with such a victory. Hence the disgust caused by the ostentatious bouquet demonstrations. Their purpose was, of course, scenic effect upon spectators, and it is not for a defendant of Mr. BEECHER'S antecedents and position to encourage or tolerate in any such mode of influence on a part of friends. The plaintiff's adherents at once saw the propriety, if not the necessity, of responding to the attempt, and Mr. TILTON was presently furnished with a boquet of dimensions so enormous as quite to counteract in loudness of odor and brilliancy of colors the BEECHER offerings. Truly a strange rivalry!

Mr. BEECHER also seems to have somewhat overdone the part of cool self-possession as chief actor in the drama. If able to maintain absolute dignity of personal bearing, manifesting neither indifference on one hand nor undue anxiety on the other, the defendant would have appeared to advantage. He would moreover have appeared in the character which the public associates with his person. But Mr. BEECHER has seemed eager to impress not only disinterested spectators but the plaintiff's lawyers with the belief that he lightly regards his own position. The reporters repeatedly mention his attempts to engage the lawyers opposed to him in jocular colloquies. They state also that on the conclusion of Mr. MORRIS' opening address, an address terrible, it should seem, in its array of criminal allegations expressed with consummate clearness and delivered with the utmost calmness and yet intensity of conviction, Mr. BEECHER stepped over to the lawyer and made some half-jesting remark about the length of the speech. When afterwards approached by the same person in the same innocently merry spirit, Mr. MORRIS is represented as repelling the advance in a manner obvious to those about them. It might be ungenerous to criticise such attempts to make an impression in the case of an ordinary man on trial, but Mr. BEECHER is not an ordinary man, and it is a pity he should thus expose himself to misconstruction.

AMONG the names of persons mentioned as having received money in compensation for influence exerted in behalf of the Pacific Mail subsidy is that of one J. G. BERRETT. It was perhaps a natural mistake of the telegraph to convert this name into J. G. BENNETT. At any rate the name so appeared in the first dispatch on the subject, a dispatch which was extensively copied, and became the theme of extensive editorial comment in disparagement of the well known editor of the New York *Herald*. Now, whatever may be Mr. BENNETT'S faults or misdeeds, so far as yet appears, he is innocent of any wrong doing in connection with the great bribery business in question. The mere insignificance of the amount involved, the paltry sum of $10,000, might alone have prevented newspaper men at least from making such a mistake. If we are destined to learn that the editor of the New York *Herald* is not above taking bribes, doubtless we shall not learn that he has fallen before so small a temptation as ten or even twenty-thousand dollars. We confess, however, that, while not in the least admiring the spirit of the *Herald's* management, and while ever prepared, without any violent revulsion of feeling, to think of it less favorably than we do now, we do not expect the present editor of the *Herald* ever to commit such a blunder as the one just ascribed to him. He has been too well trained under the founder of the paper and knows too well one great secret of its success ever thus to compromise its prosperity. If BENNETT *should* ever take money as alleged, the world would never know the fact, we may be sure.

GENERAL AND PARTICULAR.

"A glare of ice," the maiden said,
"An icy glare," was the old man's moan,
As he stretched his length on the pavement stone.

Schumsker would look well behind bars. So would King.

A wee State taking a long while: Rhode Island, in that Senatorial contest.

The Democratic party has adopted the White League insignia as its coat of arms.

Utah is rivaling Switzerland in the grandeur and fatality of its avalanches this winter.

The Mississippi river is closed by ice, at the foot of Lake Pepin, for the first time in sixteen years.

Profitable pauperism. A Baltimore beggar has just retired from business on a fortune of $26,000.

Young Fred. Seward is attracting much attention in the New York Legislature by his able speeches.

The paupers of Massachusetts occupy property valued at $3,000,000. There are 20,000 of these beneficiaries.

A strike in the Indiana coal districts is threatened on account of a further reduction in the price of mining.

Lumbermen place the quantity of timber to be cut this season at only two-thirds as much as was cut last season.

Whenever there is a ballot to determine who is the champion liar of the country, we shall vote for Schumaker.

Boston has a dozen men who are worth from $2,000,000 to $6,000,000, and a score who are worth half a million.

That Kentucky editorial ass who itches to take Phil. Sheridan's hide off, wants a lion's skin to masquerade in.

The leading firms in the iron and steel trades in Sheffield, England, are endeavoring to return to the ten hour system.

There is a desperate clashing between the Eastern and Western Railroad Boards as to an advance and reduction of freight rates.

Husbands in Schenectady, New York, are very quiet, as a rule. There are ten thousand brooms manufactured there daily.

The sex cannot complain of the want of appreciation in Chicago, ninety-three per cent. of the teachers employed there being females.

If there is a man who does not believe in future punishment, we would like to introduce him to Whitelaw Reid and convert him.

In California the land selling business is just now at quite a high pitch, and there is considerable speculation on the subject in San Francisco.

Owing to the long continued depression in wheat, most of the mills in Minnesota and Northern Wisconsin have shut down for the present.

Thousands of dollars in New York are hanging on the question of whether the majority of that scandal jury will be for Beecher or Tilton.

Small pox is prevailing extensively in the poor quarters of Cincinnati, due chiefly to the unwholesome life of hundreds of tramping men this winter.

There is thunder all round the sky in the reports from the different States of the ravages of the school-book plague upon poor and helpless communities.

Twenty-four nations have already signified their intention to take part in the Centennial Exhibition, and sixteen Commissioners have been accredited.

A Democratic exchange asks: Why are not our party papers better supported? Simply because they are not worth supporting, as a rule, we take it.

A radical change. The transfer of the New York Emigration bureau, emigrant landing, institutions, and all to the General Government, is contemplated.

The Louisville *Courier-Journal* is frightened because the daily number of guns finished at the Springfield, Massachusetts, armory, has been raised from 100 to 125.

The total number of alien passengers who landed at the port of New York last year was 140,041, a less number than in any year since 1862, and 126,777 less than in 1873.

The supply of black walnut, of late years so much used for fine cabinet work and house furnishing, is not more than sufficient for the probable demand of the next ten years.

It is estimated that in the next five years the number of woolen factories in California and Oregon will be doubled. At present about $3,000,000 of goods are turned out annually.

They have a mutton war out in Colorado. The stock-raisers are killing the sheep by thousands, on the ground that the latter nibble the grass so closely as to destroy the roots.

"Bergh looks in at the Brooklyn court room daily." He is probably interested in the kindly treatment of the "three lions" whose paws the great preacher is under.

The ladies are speculating tenderly on the reason which brings Nellie Grant back, and on the possibility of a christening at the White House, which hasn't happened since Tyler was President.

"Let knowledge circle with the winds." The number of libraries in the United States doubles about every six years, and the increase of Sabbath school libraries is even more rapid than this.

PERSONAL.

Miss Ella Foster, daughter of the well known Stephen and Abby Foster, who made a national reputation as anti-slavery speakers, has been engaged to fill a high position in the Cincinnati schools.

All history is repetition. More than eighteen hundred years ago, while sitting on the ragged edge, Tiberius wrote a letter which Tacitus has preserved: "What to write to you, or how to write, I know not; and what not to write at this time, may all the gods and goddesses torment me more than I daily feel that I am suffering if I do know."

Representatives Bundy, Garfield and Sypher and ex-Representative Shellaberger have been sued for their lives. A New York publishing company has entered suit against them to recover $438, $1,163, $550 and $899, respectively, for editing and rewriting the sketches of their lives, together with the cost of composition for printing such biographical sketches. These suits are but one part of an extensive fraud, which has been attempted upon many public men.

An old man, over three-score-and-ten, was very much depressed in spirits because unable to obtain admission to the Beecher trial, on Friday. Taking by the hand a reporter who was about to enter the court room, the ancient chap said with tears in his eyes that he had come all the way from Elizabeth, New Jersey, to see the trial, "and," he added, "if I don't get in thar and get one look at Beecher, my wife Sairy will fret and scold dreadfully."

The Louisville *Courier-Journal* gives an account of the remarkable rise of a man who, but a few years ago, was a ragged newsboy in a Western city. Steadily advancing, at the early age of twenty-six he has been called to fill the office of Probate Judge—a most important and lucrative position. The very paper that he once called out for sale now devotes considerable space in making personal mention of him. The name of the whilom newsboy is J. J. Ganep, now Probate Judge of Hinsdale county, Colorado.

Charles Sprague, "the banker poet," who died in Boston last Friday, was for many years one of the best known and most widely read of American contributors to poetical literature. As the title bestowed on him implies, he was one of the few capable of uniting business with the study of *belles lettres* and the cultivation of the sensibilities supposed to be furthest removed from the domain of the ledger and the atmosphere of the counting-house. He was born in Boston on the 29th of October, 1791. His family was a good one, his father, Samuel Sprague, having participated in the memorable "Tea Party," the anniversary of which is still celebrated in New England.

The New Orleans *Picayune*, of Jan. 19th, says: Col. H. S. McConnell, who for the last three years has been connected with the press of this city as a reporter and correspondent of several Northern and Western journals, died suddenly yesterday afternoon from congestion of the brain. The deceased was a native of Washington city, and a graduate of West Point. During the war for the independence of the South he was a brevet colonel in the Union army, and at one time provost marshal, if we are not mistaken, in St. Louis, Mo. He married the daughter of Gov. Curtin, of Pennsylvania, and has a brother now a commissioned officer in the United States army.

NEW PUBLICATIONS.

THE VATICAN DECREES IN THEIR BEARING ON CIVIL ALLEGIANCE. By the Right Honorable W. E. Gladstone, M. P. To which is added a History of the Vatican Council, and the Papal Syllabus and Vatican Decrees in English and Latin Text. By the Rev. Philip Schaff, D. D. Published by Harper & Brothers, New York. For sale by S. A. Clarke & Co., Pittsburgh.

The grave questions involved in this volume have been widely discussed in English-speaking and other countries, and are of momentous importance to all Protestants. The newspaper publications are incomplete, and to some extent incorrect; but in this volume we have the full text, edited by Dr. Schaff. Taking the History of the Vatican Council, and Latin and English Text of the Papal Syllabus and the Vatican Decrees, in connection with Mr. Gladstone's masterly letter, the reader has all the points at issue. The merits of the controversy have been so thoroughly set forth, that we need not present its salient features, and simply in passing note that the results of the discussion will be, in the end, the discomfiture of the Papal assumptions and a better understanding of the designs of the Ultramontanes. Harpers' have done a good work in issuing this publication.

THAT QUEER GIRL. By Virginia F. Townsend, author of "Only Girls," etc. Published by Lee & Shepard, Boston. For sale by J. R. Weldin & Co., Pittsburgh.

This is not a "queer," but a sensible book, containing a story of much purity and sweetness, in which the principle is shown that persons should do what is right, whether it brings care or comfort in this life. The heroine of the story found the rule a good one, and, of course, it brought her happiness. This is the fourth volume of the excellent "Maidenhood Series," and is a worthy book for young people.

THE UGLY-GIRL PAPERS; Or, Hints for the Toilet. Published by Harper & Brothers, New York. For sale by S. A. Clarke & Co., Pittsburgh.

These sprightly papers originally appeared in that capital family weekly, *Harper's Bazar*, and make a dainty little volume, a kind of hand-book, to instruct young women in the art of improving the person feminine by legitimate and sensible means. There is a vast amount of information that ladies desire to know, especially young ones, and this book will serve a useful purpose in this respect. Some of the hints are not defensible, but upon the whole the book deserves the highest commendation. The letters are so bright and cheerful in tone that the reader is entertained as well as instructed.

FOLLOW THE LAMB; or, Counsels to Converts. By Rev. H. Bonar, D.D. Published by R. Carter & Brothers, New York. For sale by W. W. Waters, Penn avenue, Pittsburgh.

This little volume contains a vast amount of truth in a small space. Its title is expressive, and the intent of the author was to reach those "feeling in themselves the working of the Spirit of Christ," who are exhorted to cultivate Christian graces. The style is simple, but couched in expressive language.

ARCHITECTURE FOR GENERAL STUDENTS. —By Caroline W. Horton. With Descriptive Illustrations. Published by Hurd & Houghton, Cambridge, Massachusetts. For sale by J. R. Weldin & Co., Pittsburgh.

This is just the book one needs to know about the principles of architecture, and for general use it will fill a great want. It will serve to instruct students and readers in the history of architecture and its various phases. It treats of ancient architecture, the various changes during the Christian period, and its condition in America. The numerous descriptive cuts, glossary and full index make the book still more valuable. It is an admirable text book and seems to have been prepared especially for the wants of schools. Travelers and builders will derive benefit, and those desiring to acquire the rudiments and general features of architecture, will be greatly aided.

THE FRENCH HUMORISTS FROM THE TWELFTH TO THE NINETEENTH CENTURY. By Walter Besant, M. A., Author of "Studies in Early French Poetry," etc. Published by Roberts Brothers, Boston. For sale by S. A. Clarke & Co., Pittsburgh.

This is a novel production to English-speaking people, in the fact that it presents a phase of humorous literature unlike that of our language. The stories of old France was first in the field of modern literature will be questioned by some. The volume, however, is unique in literature, and will be richly enjoyed by all persons of cultivated literary tastes. Mr. Besant presents in his nineteen chapters, the principal French poetical authors, beginning with Rutebeuf of the thirteenth century. Representative writers of the different centuries are given. The second period extends from 1300 to 1500, rather unpoetic, but memorable for the production of the "Romance of the Rose," translated into English by Chaucer. The third period was made brilliant by the record of such writers as Rabelais, Montaigne, Regnier and others. The fourth period, extending from 1650 to 1700, is the golden age of Louis XIV. Scallon, Mollere, La Fontaine, Amant and four others of equal fame flourished. From 1700 to 1800, the age of Rosseau and Voltaire, was the fifth period. The sixth period contains only one representative, Beranger. The book will be more prized by scholarly persons than by the masses. Lovers of poesy can find much in it, and the publishers are entitled to thanks for its reproduction.

LIFE AND LABORS OF THOMAS BRASSEY, 1805-1870. By Sir Arthur Helps, K. C. B. With a Preface to the American edition. Published by Roberts Brothers, Boston. For sale by S. A. Clarke & Co., Pittsburgh.

In this volume we have depicted the history of one of the master minds of the world. He was a hero in the full sense of the word, and one who combined all the elements of greatness, achieved by culture of mind, and the transformation of adverse circumstances into such channels that success was assured over what seemed insurmountable difficulties. He was among the first pioneers to give character and success to industrial projects. Fortunately his field of observation and duty was enlarged by his association with George Stephenson, and success in his first contract in building railroads at the early age of twenty-nine. In the course of his eventful life he was identified with railroad projects in Europe, Australia, India, Canada, South America, and in fact in nearly every part of the world. The book is of especial interest to those interested in engineering, and to the general reader it serves to illustrate what may be accomplished by education, culture and perseverance, and how large bodies of men may be managed successfully, and strange events and foreboding disaster may be averted by a master mind. Mr. Helps has displayed his usual taste in the production of this work, and the publishers have brought out it and the "French Humorists" in fine style.

THROUGH THICK AND THIN; or, "La Guerre Du Nizam." By Joseph Mery. Translated from the Thirty-fifth Paris edition, by O. Vibeur. Published by G. W. Carleton & Co., New York. For sale by J. R. Weldin & Co., Pittsburgh.

We have here portrayed love episodes in the most glowing French style. The scene is laid in India, with brilliant surroundings—three marriages the finale. It is vivacious, witty, and presents a rich galaxy in the portraiture of character. The story was popular in its native French, and it is thought it will have a brilliant career in this country, and is well suited to the taste of American readers of fiction. This is the fourth of Carleton's series of popular French Novels.

A TERRIBLE SECRET. A Novel. By May Agnes Fleming. Author of "A Wonderful Woman," etc. Published by G. W. Carleton & Co., New York. For sale by J. R. Weldin & Co., Pittsburgh.

It has been well said that the story is not half so startling as its name implies. It is, however, a strange story, and gives an account of the singular insane freak of the Catheron family, which led the men to murder their wives, if they particularly loved them. The chief features of this strange story is the marriage of Edith Darrel to Sir Victor, who gave evidence upon the first day of their marriage of insanity, while on their bridal tour. He thought that his love was so intense for her, that if he remained with her, he would kill her. He then deserts his wife, and she subsequently refuses his offers of money, and becomes a shop girl. Sir Victor succeeds finally in finding her, and she refuses to return. Finally he is dying, and she forgives him. Before his death he reveals the "terrible secret" that he was tempted to kill her.

HARPERS' SELECT NOVELS.

SACK OF GOLD. A Novel. By Virginia W. Johnson. Author of "Joseph the Jew." This is a tale of thrilling interest, presenting the evils of ill-gotten gain, pride and overreaching ambition. The story contains a moral worth considering.

THE TREASURE HUNTERS; or, The Search for the Mountain Mine. A Novel. By George Manville Fenn, author of "Ship Ahoy," &c. We have here depicted the adventures of an English family that went to the Pacific coast gold hunting. It is an enjoyable story, brimful of humor and drolleries.

JACK'S SISTER; or, True to Her Trust. A Novel. This romance is well written. Characters and plot are above the average of such books of fiction. English critics speak highly of the work.

THE KING OF NO-LAND. By B. L. Farjeon, author of "Blade o' Grass." Farjeon has written most delightful Christmas stories. "The King of No-Land" contains the popular features of "Bread-and-Cheese and Kisses," and other stories of this writer. It portrays the abdication of a King, and his subsequent life of privacy and recall to the throne again. It is a delicious story, full of pathos and delicate hits.

A HERO AND A MARTYR. A True Narrative. By Charles Reade, author of "Griffith Gaunt," &c. This is a delightful narrative of James Lambert, who rescued a boy from drowning, and afterward was struck with blindness caused by his heroic efforts to rescue other drowning persons.

LOST FOR LOVE. A Novel. By Miss M. E. Braddon. Author of "A Strange World," etc. This novel presents many of the features of her previous works—thoroughly dramatic, and very elaborate in her style. Across the water her writings have attracted much attention, and she has many admirers in this country. Her characters are usually highly wrought, and the plot shows unity and purpose.

IN HONOR BOUND. A Novel. By Charles Gibbon. Author of "Robin Gray," etc. The author has shown fine taste in the conception of this story, and the delicacy of the details. The style is rather fascinating and calculated to hold the reader's attention from first to last.

JESSIE TRIM. By B. L. Farjeon, author of "Golden Grain," etc. This story, like his previous writings, is a graphic picture of scenes and incidents, and replete with genuine sentiment. It is simple, truthful and full of pathos, and will do credit to him as an author.

These novels, and also "Aileen Ferrers," by Susan Morley, and "The Love that Lived," by Mrs. Elloart, were published by Harper & Brothers, New York, and all for sale by S. A. Clarke & Co., Pittsburgh.

PETERSON'S NOVELS.

FOR BETTER, FOR WORSE. A Love Story. From "Temple Bar," paper cover, published by Petersons, Philadelphia, and for sale by Pittock. It is a love story in which the characters are sketched with much beauty. The three sisters, chief characters, are admirably contrasted. The story closes with smiles and sunshine.

THE MYSTERY, by Mrs. Henry Wood, paper cover, is written with all the fascination of style so prominent in her numerous works. She is so well known as the author of "East Lynn," that many will greet this new candidate for public favor. Published by T. B. Peterson & Brothers, Philadelphia, and for sale by J. R. Weldin & Co., of this city.

THE FAIR MAID OF PERTH, by Sir Walter Scott, price twenty-five cents. This is second volume of the new edition of the "Waverly Novels." This is a very cheap edition for the million. The merits of the novel are well known. For sale at Weldin's.

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This grand old weekly, after its successful career of over thirty years, seems more vigorous and popular than ever before. Since its absorption of *Every Saturday* it is now the only eclectic weekly of the country. What distinguishes it is the fact that it presents inexpensively, considering its three-and-a-quarter thousand large pages of reading matter a year, with freshness, owing to the frequency of its issue, and with a satisfactory completeness attempted by no other publication whatever, the ablest essays and reviews, the best serial and short stories, the finest sketches and poems, and the most valuable biographical, historical, scientific and political information from the entire body of foreign periodical literature.

Passengers' Rights and Public Decency.

An interesting case has just been decided in Buffalo, which the *Express* thus reports: "In the latter part of June last, quite a disturbance occurred on a Niagara street car, in which Capt. Thomas Collins was a conspicuous actor. It seems that Capt. Collins got on the car at the corner of Niagara and Hudson streets, paying his fare and intending to go to the foot of Main street. Soon after entering the car he began to cough and spit upon the car floor. He was notified by the conductor that his spitting was in violation of the rules and regulations of the company, and requested to refrain. The Captain made no reply, but as soon as the conductor turned his back he again commenced to spit. After a second time requested by the conductor to refrain or leave the car, when the Captain refused to do either, and asserted his belief that it was not in the power of the company to make any such rules, and that he would spit when and where he chose, and no one could prevent it. The conductor stopped the car and called to his aid the driver, and undertook to expel Capt. Collins from the car. He resisted, and was aided by his friend, Mr. Hager, a fellow passenger. The conductor and driver being unable to expel him under these circumstances, and being desirous to enforce the regulations of the company, called to their assistance the conductor and driver of the next car coming from the opposite direction. This was the signal for a general stampede of the passengers from both cars, and Michael Horan and Rufus Phelps, police officers, being there, arrested the conductor and driver who had had trouble with Captain Collins, and took them before Police Justice Nash, for assault and battery on Captain Collins. Captain Collins commenced his action in the Superior Court July 15, last, alleging his damages at $2,000. The case was tried before Hon. George Clinton, Judge, and a jury, yesterday, and, the foregoing facts appearing, his Honor charged the jury for a verdict for the railroad company, holding that 'the company has the undoubted right to make all reasonable rules and regulations to secure the just rights of the company and the safety and convenience of its passengers; that passengers are bound to obey the reasonable rules and regulations of the company, and have no legal right to obey such regulations when they become passengers of such company; that the rule in question was such reasonable one as the company had the right to make, and there is no pretense but that Captain Collins persistently violated it.'"

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GREAT REDUCTION IN PRICE.
Now is the Time to Subscribe.

The conductors of the COMMERCIAL have for some time contemplated a Reduction in the Price of the Paper to Subscribers, where delivered by Carriers or Agents, and now announce that from and after MONDAY, JANUARY 4, 1875, the terms to such will be

Fifteen Cents Per Week.

Leave your orders for the Carrier at the Counting Room of this office.

CITY MATTERS.

FOR one dollar per month the DAILY COMMERCIAL will be mailed daily to travelers or to subscribers who are temporarily absent from Pittsburgh. The address of the paper will be changed as often as is desired.

Local Observations.

OFFICE OF THE OBSERVER, U. S. SIG. SERV.,
Room 24, First National Bank,
PITTSBURGH, PA., January 24, 1875.

Time.	Bar.	Th'r.	Hum	WIND. Dir.	WIND. Force.	Weath.
7 A.M..	29.95	34	90	N. E.	Light.	Lt. rain
2 P.M..	29.73	44	84	W.	Gentle.	Cloudy.
9 P.M..	29.99	36	93	W.	Brisk.	Clearly

Mean barometer....29.91 Highest thermom....44
Mean thermom.....37 Lowest thermom....27
Rainfall......39

Suit for Division of Land.

In the Court of Common Pleas, on Saturday, a bill in equity was filed by Robert Porter and Henry Davidson and Mary Davidson, plaintiffs, against George Porter. Orators set forth that they are seized in fee of three pieces of land, as tenants in common, in West Deer township, and that defendant has been repeatedly requested to join in with orators and have a fair division of said land made, which he has refused. Orators therefore pray that court appoint a commission to divide the land in three separate parts, giving to each their rightful share.

Burglary.

Burglars entered the office of the Secretary of the Board of Guardians of the Poor, on Fourth avenue, between Grant and Ross streets, Saturday night, through a window at the rear of the building. They broke open a desk and the drawers in a table, and also attempted to force the door of the vault, in which latter undertaking they failed. The only property missing consists of six common cigars, of the value of ten cents. The robbers left a note, addressed to Mr. Fortune, stating that they had not been as well rewarded for their trouble as they had expected, and promising to call again.

Slight Fire in the Episcopal Residence.

About half-past four o'clock yesterday morning fire was discovered in the new Episcopal residence, not yet completed, attached to St. Paul's Cathedral, Grant street. An alarm was given from box 27, and was promptly responded to by the fire department. On examination it was discovered that the floor of a room upon the second floor was burning. Fire was burning for the purpose of drying the plastering, and from this the floor caught. The flames were extinguished by the use of the Babcock extinguisher attached to the hook and ladder truck. Consequently no damage was done except the burning of a small portion of the floor.

Caught in the Act.

About five o'clock Saturday morning officer Louis Berger discovered three men suddenly leaving the saloon of R. Boyd, No. 411 Penn avenue. Chase was given and in his flight one of the men dropped a box. The officer captured one of the party named Harry Lynch *alias* Nelson, and recovered the box. It proved to be the money drawer of the saloon and contained five dollars in coin and two razors. The razors were identified by Henry Huff, who keeps a barber shop at No. 408 Penn street, whose establishment had also been opened. Mr. Boyd preferred a charge of burglary against Lynch, and Mr. Huff one of larceny. The accused, after a hearing, was committed for trial.

Seventh Ward Nominations.

A number of Republicans of the Seventh ward met on Saturday afternoon and nominated the following candidates for ward offices: Alderman, Samuel Long; Select Council, Samuel Frank; Common Council, George Wambold; School Director, Dr. W. S. Fowler; Constable, Jeremiah Murphy. Precinct officers—First precinct—Judge, Marshall Brown; Inspector, Jas. Bonebrake; Assessor, James Barr. Second precinct—Judge, F. H. Gust; Inspector, George G. Jeremy; Assessor, William Fleming. Third precinct—Judge, J. K. Brown; Inspector, Michael Clair; Assessor, Alfred Hawkins (colored.)

The members of the City Committee from this ward have fixed Saturday next, between the hours of four and seven o'clock, as the time for holding the regular primary election.

Meeting of Councils.

Pittsburgh Councils will meet to-day, and an interesting session may be expected. One of the most important features of the meeting will be the debate upon the ordinance repealing the ordinance vacating a portion of Grant and Washington streets to the Pennsylvania Railroad. As is elsewhere noted, the ordinance committee will report adversely on the measure.

The two branches will meet in joint session for the election of the Board of Health. The terms of three members—Dr. Arthurs, Ed. House and W. B. Hays, Jr.,—expiring, and as Matt. Edwards and Dr. Arnholt have resigned, it makes five vacancies to be filled. Of the retiring members, Dr. Arthurs is alone a candidate for re-election, the other candidates being Major J. F. Slagle, Dr. J. P. Thomas, James McCann, Dr. W. J. Asdale, W. H. Mechling, and Dr. Alex. E. McCandless. The election of a successor to Street Commissioner Spreen will also be taken up again.

United Brethren Conference.

JOHNSTOWN PA., January 22, 1875.

To the Editor of Pittsburgh Commercial:

The Conference room is well filled with members and visitors. The greater part of the forenoon was consumed in hearing reports from the charges. The moral character of the members, with but one exception, have thus far passed favorably.

The licentiates appeared before the several committees on the course of reading and gave evidence of close study. Several of the licentiates are now in attendance at the theological seminaries.

Eight candidates for the ministry were examined and received into ministeral relationship.

The report on education was read by Rev. D. D. DeLong. Pertinent remarks were made by Dr. Thompson, President of Otterbein University, and Rev. D. Bender, General Financial Agent.

A strong position was taken by the Conference on the subject of education. This church has seven flourishing colleges under its control, and this being centenary year, special efforts are being made to increase the endowments and otherwise improve these institutions of learning.

Conference convenes to-morrow morning at 9 A. M. M. S.

Development of the Iron Business.

The first discovery of iron was on the mountain Ida, in Crete, about 1500 B. C. The famous Delhi wrought-iron pillar; forty-eight feet long and weighing over seventeen tons, was erected A. D. 319. Ralph Hogge produced the first pig metal, in England, in 1543. He used charcoal as fuel. In 1619 David Dudley succeeded in making cast iron, using pit coal from the Forest of Dean as fuel. In 1735 Abraham Darley made the first cast iron from coke, at his works at Colebrook Dale, England. Henry Cort built the first sand bottom puddling furnace in 1783, in his works at Gosport, England. In 1784 Henry Cort invented the grooved rolls of the present day. In 1816 Samuel Rodgers invented and introduced the iron bottom puddling furnace. In 1826 Messrs. White and Hazard attempted to make pig metal with anthracite coal, but failed—the furnace chilled. In 1831 Neilson invented the hot blast. In 1833 David Thomas conceived the idea of using anthracite with the hot blast, and in 1836 he made anthracite metal a success. In 1838 Mr. Thomas came to this country, and made the first anthracite pig metal in the United States, at the Pioneer furnace, in Pottsville, Pa., in June, 1839. In 1847, Henry Burden introduced his rotary squeezer into the works of Lyon, Shorb & Co., at Pittsburgh. In 1856, Henry Bessemer took out his patent for Bessemer steel.

Mark the path of progress, as step by step those mighty men did climb the steep and rugged hill of science; each one perfecting the work he had begun, and establishing a foundation for his successor. How useful each invention was, and how profitable to the great State of Pennsylvania, the store house of hidden wealth.

The development of the iron business cost three hundred years of hard mental labor, by men of science, many of whom died in poverty; and now Pennsylvania is reaping immense benefits from her mines and manufactures, as the result of this development. Let us pay the debt we owe to science by establishing the Mechanics' High School, that it may become one of the best institutions of its class in the world. It will be an honor to the present age, and of immeasurable wealth to the future. J. K.

CITY FINANCES.

Meeting of the Committee—The New Appropriation—Depository Securities—Mayor McCarthy's Bond Approved—The Property Classification Bill—Schedule of City Property.

An adjourned meeting of the Finance Committee of Pittsburgh councils was held on Saturday afternoon. Mr. Shipton in the Chair.

APPROPRIATION FOR 1875.

Controller Snodgrass reported that he was as yet unable to present the rough statement of receipts and expenditures.

Mr. Aiken offered the following:

Resolved, That the ordinance referred to this committee by Councils, regarding the appropriations for the coming year, be referred to a sub-committee, consisting of seven members of this committee in conjunction with the chairman, who shall report as soon as practicable.

The resolution was adopted and the Chair appointed as the committee Messrs. Aiken, Littell, House, Thompson, Brown, Fulton and Gross.

The Chair appointed the following committee to have supervision of the city scales for the year 1875: Messrs. Aiken, House, Morrison, Thompson and Atterbury.

SECURITIES AND BONDS.

The Controller presented for approval the bond of the Pittsburgh Savings bank as one of the city depositories, the amount of the security being $400,000, when Mr. Aiken offered the following:

Resolved, That the bondsmen signing the bond submitted as surety for the safekeeping of the moneys of the city in the three depositaries selected by Councils, be and they are hereby required to file affidavits with the City Controller as to their responsibility as security to the city.

The resolution was adopted, and the bond of the Pittsburgh Savings bank laid over until the proper affidavits accompany it.

The Controller presented the bond of W. C. McCarthy as Mayor of the city. The bond is for $10,000, and D. R. Galway and John H. Sawyer appear upon it as the securities. The bond was approved.

THE TAX CLASSIFICATION BILL.

The committee took up the proposed act of Assembly classifying property for taxable purposes, and a lengthy discussion took place.

The first section, was taken up, providing for the abolition of the Board of Revision and the office of City Assessor, and placing their work in the hands of a Board of Assessors, consisting of three persons to be appointed every three years by court, the chief of whom shall receive a salary of $3,000 a year and the other two, ten dollars a day each. There was no objection by the committee on the abolition of the offices named and the creation of the Board of Assessors of three, but the members believed in making the salaries of the new board less than was provided in the bill. Finally, upon motion of Mr. Littell, the Chief Assessor's salary was fixed at $2,500, instead of $3,000 a year, and the "assistant assessors" at five dollars a day each during actual service, instead of $10 a day each. The section as thus amended was then adopted. Mr. Atterbury suggested that the board should consist of one member each from the old city, the East End and the South Side, so as to equalize the thing; but the matter was not acted upon.

The second section was considered and adopted. It stipulates the duties of the committee to be that the board shall make an assessment of all property taxable for city purposes, and shall take as the basis for the same the assessments as returned by the ward assessors to the county commissioners; and that the board shall have power to revise, equalize or alter such assessments and hear appeals of citizens.

When the third section, that providing for the classification of property, was called up, there was a long and lively discussion. This section provides for the division of property into three classes—built-up property, rural or suburban property and agricultural property; the first named to be assessed at its full cash value, the second at two-thirds and the third at one-half its real value.

Finding it impossible to come to any satisfactory conclusion on the matter at this time, it was finally decided to reconsider their action in the adoption of the first two sections and refer the whole to a sub-committee in connection with the City Attorney, Controller and Treasurer, for thorough consideration and report, the different districts to be represented on that committee. So the matter stands as it did at first. The chair appointed as this committee Messrs. Aiken, Morrison, West, Atterbury, Littell, Rafferty and Fulton, who are instructed to report at their earliest convenience.

MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS.

The Controller presented a bill from the Chatauqua Lake Ice Company for $411 16, for ice furnished. The bill was approved and ordered to to be paid out of appropriation No. 18, (finance).

In the matter of the suit of Henry Mackel against the city, for $500, the plaintiff's proffer of judgment for that amount in the city for $300 and costs, was recommended affirmatively to Councils for acceptance.

The ordinances referred to Councils, amending sections one and three of an ordinance to provide for the creation of a street improvement sinking fund, passed the 4th of November, 1872, was taken up and referred to Councils with an affirmative recommendation.

The verdict obtained against the city in court by Gibson & Nelson for $218 and costs, was ordered to be paid out of the finance fund. This was for the killing of a horse by an accident caused by the bad condition of the pavement on Sixth street. As the Pittsburgh & Steubenville Railway is obliged to keep Sixth street in order, the committee instructed the City Attorney to bring suit against that company to recover the amount of the verdict against the city.

SCHEDULE OF CITY PROPERTY.

The Controller presented a communication asking authority, under an ordinance passed years ago, to make a list of property belonging to the city of Pittsburgh, in order to determine the value of the assets of the same and to provide for the payment of the expenses of such work.

In this communication the Controller says: "I would respectfully state that this ordinance has thus hitherto been complied with by any of my predecessors, and the necessity for the existence of some such record reveals itself daily, and that no one department of the city government has it, except the fire department, each department having knowledge only of the property that comes under its immediate supervision and control. This evil should at once be remedied, and to enable me to properly take such measures as will afford a compliance with the directions of an ordinance so manifestly useful, and which has been too long neglected, I would suggest that this committee would empower me in taking of such an inventory, that the expenses attending the same be paid from the finance fund." The Controller wants the city with a large bonded indebtedness to show up some assets.

On motion the necessary authority was given to the Controller, who was authorized to purchase books necessary for the work and to employ a clerk at a salary not exceeding $75 a month for the same.

The claims of Thomas Owens and Evan Jones were referred to a sub-committe to investigate and report.

A bill, amounting to $20 22 for expenses in the Treasurer's office, was ordered to be paid out of appropriation No. 2.

Adjourned.

THE RAILROAD ORDINANCE.

The Committee to Report With a Negative Recommendation.

The Ordinance Committee of Councils met on Saturday, pursuant to a resolution requesting them to report the ordinance rescinding the contract between the city of Pittsburgh and the Pennsylvania Railroad Company relative to the erection of certain bridges and tunnels, and the vacation of certain streets. The subject, it will be remembered, was before the Councils of last year, in the shape of a resolution to rescind the contract. It was objected to in that form, and referred to the Ordinance Committee, to have the form changed to that of an ordinance. It was affirmatively recommended, but not reported, and under the rules was considered as still pending in the committee. At last meeting of Councils, the motion was passed calling upon the new committee to report.

There were present at the meeting on Saturday Messrs. Liddell, Barckley, MacConnell, Moore, Kerr, Wainwright, Powers and Anderson. After some discussion, a motion was adopted to report the ordinance with a negative recommendation, and also recommending that the time for the completion of the contract on the part of the railroad company, be extended until the first of January, 1876.

The ordinance relative to driving cattle through the streets, and the supplement to the "peanut" ordinance, were discussed and laid over for the present. The committee then adjourned.

Banking Capital.

A statement has been made, showing the banking capital of the several monied institutions of the country. There are eighteen national banks in Pittsburgh, and two in Allegheny. There are forty-eight savings and other banks in Pittsburgh, and sixteen in Allegheny—making eighty-four in the two cities. In addition to these there are six private banks in this city, and ten savings and other banks in the adjacent boroughs, making one hundred banks in all in the county. The capital of the national banks is $9,800,000; and of the other institutions $10,324,000, or a total capital of $20,124,000. This does not include private banks, nor those institutions whose capital is represented by assets. These show a capital of $5,487,912, which would make a grand aggregate of $25,561,912. It is estimated that there is an amount on deposit equal to the above capital, which would show an aggregate banking basis of over $50,000,000.

THE literary society at McDonald's debated on the Louisiana trouble on Friday night. They expect to debate on the Mount Washington question on Free Trade, next Wednesday night.

COMPULSORY EDUCATION.

Proposed New Law—Instruction of Truant Children.

In the State Senate a bill has been introduced by Mr. Payne the first section of which provides, that every parent or person having legal charge of any child between the ages of eight and sixteen years, shall cause the same to attend some public or private day school, at least sixteen weeks in each year, eight weeks of which shall be at least consecutive; or else be instructed at home sixteen weeks in the year in spelling, reading, writing, English grammar, geography, arithmetic and the history of the United States, unless the physical or mental condition of the child is such as to render the attendance or instruction inexpedient or impracticable.

The second section of the bill prohibits the employment of any child under sixteen years of age, by any person or corporation, during school hours of public school terms unless the child shall have received instruction for sixteen weeks out of the fifty-two. In this matter certificates of attendance are required. For each violation of the provision a fine of fifty dollars is imposed, the same to be added to the public school fund.

The third section makes it the duty of the directors or trustees of each school district in the months of January and October of each year, to make into the situation of the children employed at various branches of labor in the district, to see whether the law is complied with. The proprietor, manager or superintendent of such establishments are required to exhibit a list of the children with certificates to the effect that the law is being complied with. Section four imposes upon parents and guardians the duty of sending to school children who have been discharged from employment for the purpose of enabling them to attend.

By the fifth section any person who shall violate any provision of section one, three and four of this act shall, on written notice of such violation from one of the school officers above named, forfeit for the first offense and pay to the Board of School Directors of the township, town or city in which he resides, or such offense has occurred, the sum of five dollars, and after such first offense, shall, for each succeeding offense in the same year, forfeit and pay to the Board of School Directors of said township, town or city, the sum of five dollars for each and every week, not exceeding sixteen weeks in any one year, during which he, she or they shall refuse to pay such Board or officer, shall have failed to comply with any of said provisions, the said penalties, when paid, to be added to the public school fund of said school district in which the offense occurs.

Section six provides for the payment out of the public school funds of money for the purchase of text books, when the parents or guardians are unable to raise the money for this purpose.

Section seven provides that in case parties having the legal charge of any children unable to induce them to attend school, such children shall be considered truants, to be dealt with as such, and relief is given from the penalties prescribed by former sections.

By section eight the Secretary of the Board of Education in any city, or Directors for a township are empowered to make provision for truant or neglected habitually truant children found wandering in the streets, and furnish suitable places for their discipline, instruction and confinement, when necessary, and to employ police and constables to enforce their rules and regulations provided that such rules shall not go into effect as laws until approved by the President Judge of the Court of Common Pleas for the district.

Section nine gives Justices of the Peace jurisdiction in regard to the rules and regulations, and the penalties provided by the act.

Two weeks, attendance at a-half time or evening school, is by the tenth section of the act to be counted as one week at a day school. It is proposed that the bill, if it becomes a law, shall go into effect January 1, 1876.

COURT PROCEEDINGS.

U. S. District Court—Judge McCandless.

Robert J. Greer, bankrupt, Allegheny. On petition of assignees, order made for the sale of certain real estate discharged of liens, except purchase money mortgages.

Peter Campbell, bankrupt, Westmoreland county. On petition of trustee an order was made for the sale of certain real estate discharged of liens.

Ziegler, Baker & Co., bankrupts, Westmoreland county. On petition of assignee an order was made for the sale of certain real estate discharged of liens.

William Carmichael, bankrupt, Mercer county. On petition presented, orders were made for the payment of Mr. Aaron Gifford and E. M. Lathan, the amount of their respective judgments.

Blackmore & Nelson, bankrupts, city, petition on behalf of the Duquesne Bank of Pittsburgh, to restrain certain execution creditors, presented and argued, and injunction refused.

Owen Cunningham, bankrupt, Cambria county. An order was made extending the time for the meeting of the creditors before Register Brotherline, to consider debtor's proposition for composition, to the 23d prox.

M. A. Woodward, assignee of the estate of Samuel R. McClean, vs. A. H. Rowan, Pittsburgh. Rule to show cause why judgments opened and defendant let into a defense.

Mr. W. Allman vs. Steamboat Kate Dickson, in admiralty. Decree that judgment be entered against the claimants and their stipulators.

In the case of the steamout Athletic, in admiralty, John G. MacConnell, Esq., Commissioner appointed to examine the claims filed, and make distribution of the fund in the Registry of the Court, filed his report of distribution, and the same was confirmed, subject to exceptions within ten days.

United States District Court—Judge McCandless.

Addison Sweetland vs. James Jiffkins *et al.* An argument on the rule to show cause why the case should not be remanded to the Court of Common Pleas of Luzern county. The Court reserved its decision.

Common Pleas No. 1—Judges Sterrett and Stowe.

Sarah L. Griffith filed a petition to secure her separate earnings.

Emma Hiland filed a petition for a divorce from her husband, Ernest A. Blank. Subpœna awarded.

Anna Stagg presented a petition for a divorce from her husband, John Stagg. Subpœna awarded.

The Commonwealth *ex rel.* vs. John Pearce. Petition *de lunatico* presented and commissioner appointed.

Barbara Offeman vs. Charles Offeman; libel in divorce. Rule on respondent to show cause why he should not pay libellant a certain sum for maintenance and expenses *pendente lite*.

In the matter of the appointment of election officers in the township of Upper St. Clair, to fill vacancies, W. R. Anderson was appointed Judge; Henry Pollett, Election Inspector; Moses Cook, Assessor in the first district.

TRIAL LIST FOR TO-DAY.

Stevens vs. Pittsburgh and Connellsville Railroad Company; Reiter *et al.* vs. Nellis & Co.; Millett & Co. vs. Morrell; Davis vs. Hubbard *et al.*; Enterprise Savings Bank vs. Nation Trust Company; Bertram vs. Pfarr & Dietrich; Watterson vs. A. V. R. R. Co.; Dravo & McDonald vs. Pittsburgh Insurance Co.; Beaty *et al.*, administrators, vs. Coleman; McElroy & Co. vs. Dickson vs. Ash; Boatman's Fire and Marine Insurance Co. vs. Tenney *et al.*; Rafferty, trustee, vs. Spear & Co., Ward, assignee, vs. Stewart vs. Little, Jr.; Barton & Keeny vs. Young; Lauer & Bro. vs. Hacke.

Common Pleas No. 2—Judges Kirkpatrick and White.

Goldsmith & Lessing vs. Roth & Son. Rule for judgment for want of sufficient affidavit of defense.

James M. Graham vs. J. J. Medary. Motion made by defendant for a new trial.

Ferry *et ux.* vs. Bryce, Walker & Co. Defendants move for a new trial.

Stewart & Cook vs. J. C. Bedell. Plaintiffs move to take off the non-suit.

TRIAL LIST FOR TO-DAY.

Old vs. McKee; Bloss vs. Bunting; Watson vs. Schied; Cluley vs. Phillips; (2), McCabes Executor vs. Hickey; Daugherty vs. Kelly; McAfee vs. Scott; Buente vs. Schoenberger & Co.; Walley vs. Pennsylvania Company.

Orphans' Court—Judge Hawkins.

This court disposed of the usual amount of business on Saturday, and will meet this morning for hearing cases on the argument list.

Quarter Sessions—Judge Collier.

Elizabeth Glenn and Mary A. Bell, for keeping a disorderly house, charged by Joseph McCoy, were each sent to the Workhouse for one year.

Wm. Daw, found guilty of misdemeanor in unlawfully cutting and wounding Henry Young, was sent to the Workhouse two years.

Herman Bell having pleaded guilty to the larceny of a lot of tools from the stone-quarry of John Weir, was sentenced to the Workhouse for two years.

Flora Smith, convicted of felonious assault and battery on oath of Charles Frazier, was sent to the Workhouse one year.

Frank Carrigan, for selling liquor without license, was fined five dollars and costs.

Henry Schuppe was fined $150 and costs on each of two indictments for selling liquor on Sunday.

Martin J. Griffin, convicted of willful trespass on oath of Ellen C. Hooper, was sentenced to the Workhouse for three months.

Robert Johnston, found guilty of robbery on oath of James Molan, was sentenced to the penitentiary for two years and six months.

Patrick Barrett, for selling liquor on Sunday, was fined $150.

TRIAL LIST FOR TO-DAY.

Commonwealth vs. Adolph Zivanzig; J. A. Young, *et al.*; Albert Gardner; Patrick McNamee *et al.*; James White *et al.*; Bridget Hughes; Robt. Wells; Louis Graft; Robert Fife (3); Calvin Smith; Charles Rubrict; J. P. Padden; Thomas Devereux; Mary Enright; Benjamin Knoerr (3); Timothy Colligan *et al.*; Amelia Jones; Hans Hardtmeyer; Matthias Bollenger; Bridget Madden; August Geisler.

GO SLEIGH riding in a buggy with a bell on the horse, is the way they do it at McDonald's.

LIST OF PATENTS.

Issued from the United States Patent Office to Citizens of the States of Pennsylvania and Ohio.

Following is the list of patents issued from the United States Patent Office to citizens of Pennsylvania and Ohio, for the week ending January 23, 1875, furnished for the COMMERCIAL from the office of J. McC. Perkins & Co., Counsellors-at-law and Solicitors for American and foreign patents, 515 Seventh street, Washington, D. C.:

PENNSYLVANIA.

Scrubbing Brushes—Michael Bigtin, Marr, assignor of one-half his right to M. F. Rapp, Pleasant Valley. Filed November 21, 1874.

Fire-Box Attachments to Steam Boilers—John Lee, Hazleton. Filed October 13, 1874.

Starch Strainers—W. Graham, Rochester. Filed November 13, 1874.

Uniting Handles to Sad Irons—Wm. J. Reagan, Royer's Ford, assignor to Royer's Ford Iron Foundry, same place. Filed November 4, 1874.

Burring and Finishing Tools for Dental Engines—F. Hickman, Reading, assignor to Samuel S. White, Philadelphia. Filed December 19, 1874.

Torsion Springs—Richard Dudley, Erie. Filed December 10, 1874.

Lubricators—Morris Evans, Erie. Filed August 29, 1874.

Boiler Log Slides—Chancey B. Jackson and Charles N. Humphrey, Philipsburg; said Humphrey assignee of his right to Hoover, Harris & Co. Filed November 21, 1874.

Car Brakes—Michael Madden, Harrisburg, assignor of one-half his right to William C. McFadden, same place. Filed October 1, 1874.

Combined Towel Racks and Wash Stands—Reuben P. Buttles, Mansfield. Filed May 29, 1874.

Buckles—James Adair, Killbuck township. Filed December 14, 1874.

Lids for Stoves—William Weaver, Phœnixville. Filed December 16, 1874.

Devices for Opening and Closing Furnace Doors. Samuel L. Denney, Gap. Filed November 18, 1874.

REISSUE.

Lubricating Wheels and Pulleys—J. King McLanahan, Hollidaysburg. Patent No. 143,850, dated October 21, 1873. Filed April 11, 1874.

Torsional Springs—C. W. Saladee, Pittsburgh, assignor to L. Dobbins, Erie. Patent No. 113,451, dated April 4, 1871. Filed October 14, 1874.

OHIO.

Steam Pumps—Fuller Trump, Springfield, assignor to Jas. Leffel & Co., same place. Filed December 4, 1874.

Thill Couplings—Jas. R. Burville, Bainbridge, assignor of one-half his right to Wm. H. Dunn, same place. Filed November 30, 1874.

Sheep Shears—Frederick Riedling, Upper Sandusky. Filed December 5, 1874.

Plow for making Ridges—Francis S. Fischer, Hamilton. Filed November 27, 1874.

Saw Sharpeners—John Crook and Jas. A. Crook, Augusta. Filed November 14, 1874.

Cultivator Shovels—Thos. J. Houston, Madison, county. Filed October 7, 1874.

Steam Cylinder Heads for Compound Engines—Thomas F. Holloway, Cleveland. Filed August 10, 1874.

Clothes-Driers—Charles T. Shafer, Springfield. Filed October 7, 1874.

Lifting Wells—D. L. Newcomb, Kenton. Filed September 23, 1874.

Lifting Jacks—Elmore E. Banning, Rochester Depot. Filed June 29, 1874.

Machines for Heading Bolts—Robert Gracey, Alliance, assignor of two-thirds his right to Charles E. Marchand and Thomas R. Morgan, same place. Filed July 16, 1874.

Horse Hay-Rakes—A. W. Coates, Alliance. Filed November 16, 1874.

REISSUE.

Inkstands—A. W. Brinkerhoff, Upper Sandusky. Patent No. 126,514, dated May 7, 1872. Filed October 4, 1873.

THE COMMISSIONERSHIP

The Quo Warranto—Lashell vs. Stuckrath.

An argument was heard on Saturday, by Judges Sterrett and Stowe, in the matter of the *quo warranto* to determine whether right Jacob Stuckrath holds the office of County Commissioner. Mr. Malcolm Hay appeared for Mr. Lashell, and Mr. A. M. Brown for Mr. Stuckrath. At Mr. Brown's suggestion his motion to quash was overruled by the Court *pro forma*, whereupon he filed a demurrer setting forth that the Attorney General's suggestion was necessary in order to procure a *quo warranto*; that the matter in the relator's petition was insufficient in form and substance; that the election of Mr. Lashell was illegal; and that by the Constitution and laws of the State Mr. Stuckrath was entitled to hold over until the first Monday of January, 1876.

Mr. Hay opened the argument on the part of the relator. He said that the act of Assembly of the 15th of April, 1846, authorized the election of one County Commissioner each year to serve for three years next ensuing his election. Under that act Mr. Stuckrath was elected, and he claimed that under the same act Mr. Lashell was elected. He denied that that act was abrogated by the new Constitution. The second section of the schedule says that all laws, &c., inconsistent with the provisions of the new instrument shall continue as though this Constitution were not in effect. The fourteenth article of the Constitution, article seven, says that three County Commissioners shall be elected in the year 1875, to serve for three years, their term to commence on the first Monday of January, 1876, and not until then. The Constitution took effect on the first day of January, 1874, for all purposes not otherwise provided for by the instrument itself. But the instrument itself says that Commissioners shall not be elected until the fall of 1875, so that that part of the Constitution did not take effect on the 1st day of January, 1874. Hence the act of 1846 must continue in effect, and is not abrogated, as far as concerns the election of Commissioners. But the Constitution says that the terms of the Commissioners shall commence on the first Monday, 1876, while under the old act the terms commenced at an early day ensuing the election. Here was an inconsistency with the Constitution, and this has stopped the act of 1834 fails. Hence Mr. Stuckrath, whose term expired some time ago, was allowed to hold over until January, 1876, and Mr. Lashell is not entitled to the office until that time. The whole question, Mr. Hay claimed, was whether or not this act of 1834, was abrogated by the Constitution of 1874, and that it was clearly not and was still in existence.

Major Brown followed on behalf of the respondent. He claimed that the election of Mr. Lashell was illegal, because he could not hold partly under the new and partly under the old Constitution. The Constitution, when it is said that three Commissioners should be elected in 1875, and commence their terms in January, 1876, and when it said that all parties elected previous to the year 1875, should hold over until their successors should have been duly elected and qualified, meant that the parties now in office should hold until 1876. At that time all should vacate their offices, some of them holding for a period less than three years and some of them for a period over three years. The Constitution allows no election for one year, and that was the full length of time Mr. Lashell could possibly hold. On the other hand, if Mr. Lashell was elected for three years, it was clearly illegal, because the Constitution said that the election for three years should take place in 1875.

The question as to the necessity for the writ of *quo warranto* issuing at the suggestion of the Attorney General, was argued at length by both gentlemen, and numerous authorities cited.

The court reserved its decision, giving no intimation as to the matters in controversy.

ORTWEIN.

The Warrant for His Execution Read to Him.

Saturday afternoon, Sheriff Hare, in company with Judge Kirkpatrick, Judge Hall, of Somerset, Deputy Sheriffs Culley and Scandrett, Messrs. Swartzwelder, Moore Lutey, counsel for Ortwein, and some members of the press, visited the cell of the condemned man, and read to him the warrant of his execution, which is to take place on Tuesday, January 25d. The document was read by the Sheriff, with pauses between each sentence, to enable Mr. Lutey to render the words in German, so that the prisoner might understand them fully. This occupied more than the usual time, as Ortwein maintained his wonted composure throughout, and gave no outward or visible sign of uneasiness. At the close Mr. Lutey asked him if he understood it. He said: "O, yes; I understand it all." He also stated to Mr. Lutey that the Rev. Mr. Hertzberger, of the Lutheran church, had been visiting him, and that he wished the minister to continue his visits. Sheriff Hare then bade Ortwein good-bye, and urged him to prepare for the final day, as his time was short. To this Ortwein nodded his head affirmatively, and the party then withdrew from the cell, leaving the wretched man to his own reflections.

Washington Public School.

A very interesting reading contest occurred at the Washington School, Seventeenth ward, on Friday last, between the pupils of the High School room, taught by Miss Lena Muhattan. The pupils are divided into two divisions—"U" and "J"—each division having a captain. At present Master Matthew Garrett is captain of division "L," and Master Frank Cameron of division "J." The judges of the reading contest on Friday were Rev. R. Lea, Rev. M. B. Sloan and George Seese, Esq., a director of the school.

Eleven pupils contested for the prize, which was awarded to Miss Alice Sample, of division "J," while the decision of the judges was that division "U" made the best average. The next contest will be between six pupils from each of the three highest rooms, taught respectively by the Misses Mulhattan, Black and Kaufman. These contests create a lively interest among the scholars, and result in great good.

LIEUT. FRANK QUIGG, of company G, Duquesne Greys, is lying seriously ill at Denver, Colorado.

AMERICAN NATIONAL EDUCATION.

The True System—Industrial Education and the Beneficial Results it Would Produce in the Development of the Resources of the Country.

To the Editor of the Pittsburgh Commercial:

A glance at the history of education will satisfy any one that the most successful nations of the world—those which are making the most rapid strides in civilization and material wealth, as well as in civiland religious liberty—are fast learning that the proper education of their peoples, under the fostering care of the government, is of prime importance.

The time has been when the ablest lawgivers considered that ignorance alone was the great power or behind the throne; and in those despotic governments, ignorance and servility was considered a necessary condition of the subjects of the tyrants who ruled and reigned over them. But these nations are fast passing away, and will soon all be numbered among the things that were. On the other hand, those nations that early based their systems of education upon such principles as those advocated by the able author of the "Spirit of Laws," and other political philosophers and educational reformers, are now the most powerful, the most wealthy and the most enlightened nations of the earth. Among the latter may be mentioned Holland, Switzerland, Prussia and Germany, with their systems long since established and sufficiently developed to enable them to compete successfully in the marts of the world, and keep their coffers filled with gold from France, England and the United States.

In the late Franco-Prussian war, France learned the sad lesson in the dear school of experience, that brain and intellect among the masses are more potent than ignorance, muscle and musketry. England is now awake upon the subject, and her statesmen and philosophers say, "The true epic of our time is, not *arms* and the *man*, but *tools* and the *man*,—an infinitely wider kind of epic." She is losing her vantage ground in manufactures and the mechanical arts, and acknowledges that it is only by the better education of her wealth-producing citizens—skilled laborers, manufacturers and artizans—that she can hope to retrieve her loss. England and France are now desperately in earnest upon the subject of industrial education, and it behooves this nation to follow their examples.

Great improvements have been made in some of the public primary schools of this country, and in a few of our colleges, the last few years; and the tendency towards *practical* instruction, in all of our schools and colleges just now, is very marked. But these changes, like all reformations, have met with a powerful opposition. And strange as it may appear, the greatest obstacles in the way are the teachers themselves; for we speak whereof we know, when we say that nothing short of an educational earthquake will ever get nine-tenths of our educators out of the old ruts. "Old fogy" is no name for the majority of our pedagogues. Especially is this the case with those who pride themselves on their "sheepskin," which sets forth a long array of learning which they do—not possess, and rest upon them a title of doubtful significance; for we submit that a man should be judged for by what he is presumed to know, but by what he *can do*. We are sorry thus to be compelled to tell the truth, and humbly beg pardon of our sage educators of the long gown, asking them in all sincerity and humility to read, ponder and reflect.

PROGRESS.

CITY MATTERS IN BRIEF.

THE river was rising at one o'clock this morning, with five feet four inches by the marks.

THE funeral of the late Mr. John S. Hall took place on Saturday morning and was largely attended.

BEN. CLARK, late Chief of Police of Allegheny, is a candidate for Alderman in the Fifth ward of that city.

THE Centennial Tea Party is to be held at Library Hall, and to continue three nights. The parquette will be boarded over for the occasion.

A YOUNG MAN named Frank Dripple slipped on the ice and fell at the corner of Wylie avenue and Logan street yesterday, breaking an arm.

FREDERICK HEIL was held in $300 to answer the charge of assault and battery entered against him by Constable Elijah Barker, of Allegheny.

A HORSE belonging to a Mr. Keenan, of Allegheny, was frightened by a fire alarm, on Benton alley, yesterday, having been strangled to death with his halter.

BURGLARS, Saturday morning, attempted to gain an entrance to Linneman's furnishing store, on Penn avenue, using a "jimmy," but failed in their efforts.

THE towboats Acorn, J. D. Johnson and Evan Williams were engaged all day yesterday in breaking the ice in the first pool. No danger is now apprehended from the break-up.

TEAMS attempting to pass along Brownsville avenue, South Side, yesterday, were compelled to abandon that route, the icy condition of the thoroughfare rendering it impossible for horses to keep their feet.

THE contract for furnishing the uniforms for the Allegheny police has been awarded to Mr. N. Gosser, of this city, at forty dollars per suit. The caps will be furnished by H. McGregor at two dollars each.

PAT. FREEMEN, who was committed by Alderman McMasters, to answer the charge of larceny, was yesterday released. The prisoner was accused by James Wilson of stealing twenty-five cents worth of coal.

ON Saturday afternoon William Davis, a boy ten years of age, was knocked down on Penn avenue, at Twenty-eighth street, by a horse attached to a butcher's wagon, and run over. He was not seriously injured.

VICKSBURG, January 24.—Down—John A. Wood and barge. Up—Steamer Algonquin and Great Republic. Weather clear and cool. River fell 1 foot 5 inches.

The Pittsburgh Real Estate Company (Limited).

The card of this concern will be found in our advertising columns this morning, to which the attention of our readers is respectfully directed. The object for which this company has been formed is the purchase and sale or exchange by barter of real estate, stocks, bonds, mortgages and other securities and its operations it must prove of incalculable benefit to the public. Messrs. Allen, Patterson and Kerr are all gentlemen well and favorably known in the community and possessed of the capacity and experience to make the business in which they have embarked a complete success. Any of our readers having property to sell, rent or exchange, or desiring to purchase real estate, should ascertain the workings of the Pittsburgh Real Estate Company (Limited), by calling at the office, No. 137 Fifth avenue.

Be Sure and Call for

Dr. Bull's Cough Syrup, if you are troubled with a bad cough or cold. It will give you relief. For sale by every respectable druggist. One bottle 25 cents; five bottles for $1 00.

SPECIAL NOTICES.

Have You a Cough?
HAVE YOU A COLD?

If so, use "SPRAGUE'S PEARL WILD CHERRY and HOARHOUND